

MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

# The Oracle

Sept. 2006 Vol.15, Issue 1

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## First Free Athena party kicks off Fall semester

Where could you dress in a toga, dance your heart

by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

out, and get a caricature drawn all in one night? On September 7, the first Free-Athena Party was launched on the Brady Patio. After a hot and hectic day of classes, Athenians were able to have a good night filled with dancing, aided by the music from a live DJ.

"We are just happy that all the students had a good time," said Valerie Gonzales, Assistant to the Vice President and Student Affairs.

Athenians also participated in a raffle for an ipod and a toga contest to win t-shirts and tickets to Magic Mountain. Athenians also made Greek wreaths and sat down to have their caricatures drawn.

"There was collaboration from different departments," said Chinako Miyamoto, Assistant Director of Residence Life.

The Free-Athena Project began by reviving Athena, the mascot of Mount St. Mary's College. The project was created at the end of Fall 2005. The first event was planned in Spring 2006 to kick-off the 2006-2007 academic year.

"It was to promote school spirit. We didn't think this would catch on. [The event] was a good way to open up the project," said Audra DiPadova, Assistant Director of Women's Leadership and Student Involvement.

Bruce Robinson, the caricaturist was also glad to receive the phone call from Farrah Mullings,



by Jenny Park

**HOLD STILL:** Sophomores Daisy Esqueda, Sociology, Patricia Rubalcaba, Sociology, and Pamela Flores, Nursing get their caricatures drawn by artist Bruce Robinson.

Director of Student Activities. He remembered doing a similar event for the Doheny campus, where he drew 30 people in one

sitting. At the Chalon campus, Robinson drew caricatures for the women as toga-wearing Athenas.

"I've always loved drawing ever since I was a kid. I enjoy going to the events and making people happy," Robinson said.

### EDITORIAL:

## Internet has diminished true social interaction

I am ashamed to say that I met my boyfriend on the Internet. When asked how my boyfriend and I met, I usually say the general "Through a friend," instead of, "My friend introduced me to a guy through AOL Instant Messenger and after about a year of chatting, we met and almost instantly started dating." To say that I met my boyfriend online seems so dirty and impersonal.

I am ashamed of my Internet activity. I use AIM almost every night and have a facebook I check regularly. It is very convenient, I can leave messages or comments to my friends from high school, and we can still call each other "friends" and keep tabs on each other's lives even though we have not seen or spoken to each other in years.

I can "meet" the friends of my friends by adding them to my facebook. I had a myspace account until recently, when I deleted it after finding my fifteen year old sister's account, which listed her interests as "boys, boys,

boys" and had many comments calling her "lover" and "sexy."

I call my friends the same online, but never in real life because it would sound too awkward and strange.

In cyberspace it is easy to joke around and make silly internet accounts, but it is just as easy for people to see your account and take ever word literally and with the worst intentions.

On the Internet it is far too easy to represent yourself as something that is very unlike the real you, or that focuses on a true aspect of yourself but ignores all of the other facets and idiosyncrasies that people would only come to know with face-to-face interaction.

I love to listen to my mom's stories of her college experience—staying up late hanging out in her friends' dorm rooms; going to fun places around Los Angeles; and pulling late all nighters in the library with her study buddies.

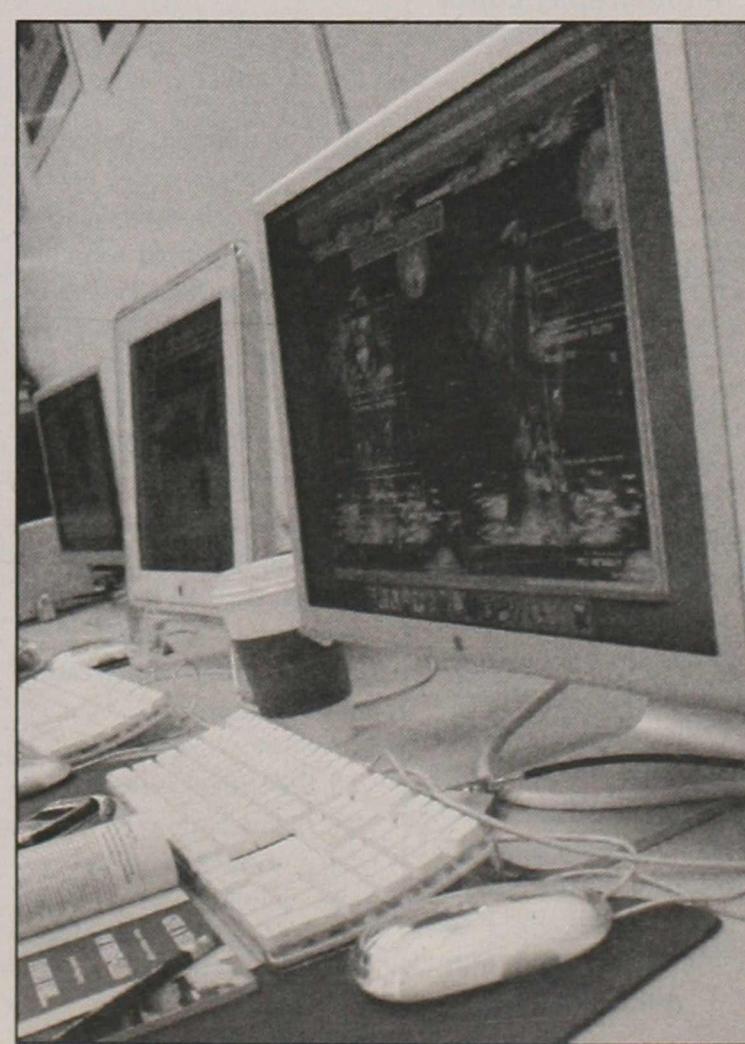
My friends hang out in our

own dorm rooms and message each other though we are only a few doors away from each other; we meet occasionally by the very cool vending machines when we are hungry or need a stretch break from our laptops; and we pull late all nighters in our own rooms, using the internet for reference and to chat with our friends who are pulling lonely late nighters of their own.

The Internet has diminished true social interaction and has made it difficult for people to truly connect in any other medium than the Internet.

Though I am aware of the negatives of the Internet in terms of my social growth, well-being, and health, I am too attached to the internet to ever give it up entirely.

I do need to make an effort to leave my computer in my dorm room and go see people in real life, enjoying the sunshine and getting to know my friends outside of an Internet connection.



# Anime Veteran stays at AX without watching anime

**T**his being my third time to Anime Expo (AX) at the Anaheim Convention Center during by PAULA GAETOS

## Photography Editor

Fourth of July weekend, surprisingly enough, this year was the first year I did not watch a single anime at the convention. Don't get me wrong; AX is certainly about anime, but it is much more than that. AX certainly caters to fans of anime and all things Japanese pop culture but it also gives a platform for fans to display their wondrous talents that honor this eccentric passion. My favorite part, as it was last year, was the Anime Music Video contest (AMV's).

"AMV stands for 'Anime Music Video,' an unofficial music video to a popular song created

by budding video editors from clips of anime films and series. AMV creators use the song and anime without permission but it is generally turned a blind eye to. There are often AMV competitions at conventions, and AMV creators take them very seriously." See <http://www.animation.co.uk/glossary.htm>.

What made this year my favorite, however, wasn't the AMV's themselves (though very good), but pre-show. Because of technical difficulties, the AX staff bought time by presenting a hilarious and ridiculously impressive martial arts demonstration. In the pre-show, "contestants" (martial artists dressed as various characters from action-genre anime) showed off their mad skills to a panel of "judges" (other martial artists dressed as characters) to the battle music of the

Those who missed out on the AMV's missed out on one really exciting performance by lots of muscular pretty-boys and sexy femmes who can fight.

anime they represented. Those who missed out on the AMV's missed out on one really exciting performance by lots of muscular pretty-boys and sexy femmes who can fight.

But don't get me wrong here, either. The AMV's is only the tip of the iceberg to what AX truly has to offer. Each day at AX is a 24-hour experience

starting from the very first moment you obtain your all-access badge until the last moments when you head your way home.

**24-hours of anime** -- attendees watch various anime shows ranging from the completely G-rated children's anime, like the cute adventures of a sugar fairy, to PG-13 type anime about the complications of relationships and love affairs, to the R-rated action filled involving either martial arts, giant robots or both.

**24-hours of gaming** -- attendees even have opportunities to compete with one another in a 24-hour arcade containing games that let you shoot, fight, drive or dance for points and respect. There are consoles as well as table-top card gaming tournaments to rank yourself among your hardcore gamer peers.

**24-hours of interacting with eccentric people** -- you'll never know who you will bump into at AX. This is probably the only place where I can find a somber gothic-lolita fashionista, an outspoken anime cosplayer, a shy Japanese girl in a traditional summer yukata, and a regular Joe in jeans and t-shirt hanging out in one place talking about their various interests and exchanging online contact information.

And most of all, AX is best 24-hours of amazing bonding time with friends that I was able to share this one-of-a-kind experience.

The Society for the Promotion of Japanese Animation sponsors the annual Anime Expo, the largest of its kind in the United States. To find out more, visit them online at: <http://www.spja.org/>

## The Oracle

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**Mission Statement**  
The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are reflective of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by the student body. Please send letters to the editor to [oracle@msmc.la.edu](mailto:oracle@msmc.la.edu).

## Editor's Desk:

### The Homeless of SF reached out to me

"I thank God...I thank God." A man was singing at the St. Vincent de Paul Clothing Shelter to his fellow homeless friends with the rhythm of a blues singer. I spent a week in San Francisco with Bev Suson, Aurora Parra, Phuong Mai, Kasey Haley, and Elizabeth Essman (from Cal State Northridge), getting a slice of what it was like to be homeless. With the CSJ's we were helping in small ways, facilitating the bigger picture of an organization whose mission it is to serve the poor.

Each day, we came back with a different lesson in life. The simple necessities of life that we had taken for granted soon became treasures in my eyes: the bathtub, a bed, a warm house, food. And yet, the people survived living day to day. They lived in the present moment because their future was uncertain. Although they relied on others, they all had a sense of dignity because these organizations were treating them as so.

One man started to ask me, challengingly, "You have a future. What are you going to do with it?" Another man, kindly asked me what my profession



**LEFT MY HEART IN SAN FRANCISCO:** (L-R) Sr. Jan Husung, CSJ; Jenny Park; Phuong Mai; Sr. Ann Davis, CSJ; Bev Suson; Aurora Parra, Elizabeth Essman; and Kasey Haley take a break to enjoy the sites.

was. A third gave me advice on financial aid, as he was getting money from the government to attend a city college. We simply have no way to judge a life by its cover. Some people led truly astonishing lives. One man was a producer of movies. Another was quite young and could have looked like a graduate stu-

dent from Stanford.

Most of the homeless we met at the clothing shelter were men. Although I didn't know their stories fully, I wanted to. When I asked a man if he needed any help finding a shirt at a clothing shop, he responded, "No I can do it myself. I'm not a kid anymore." He

said it in a manner of reprimanding himself and wanting to be a better person. He also mentioned he had a teenage daughter.

This was the best part of the program--getting to know the people.

*-Jenny Park*

# Student Spotlight: Interview with Kasey Haley

□ Mount student performed in a play written by Michael McFall about a homeless veteran.

by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

1. Was it a mere coincidence that the "Feeding the Homeless" Trip happened after you signed up for the part of your character in "Dirty White Tuxedo Pants and a Brown Plastic Bag"?

*KH:* It was a mere coincidence. I had wanted to go on the trip to San Francisco for two years! I had heard about it two spring semesters ago, but could not go due to summer school obligations. I had planned on going this year, and was offered the part in March prior to the trip. Coincidentally, rehearsals began a week after we returned from the trip. I was able to look at the play and its text in a completely different light looking at it with a new perception and

open heart.

2. How do you think you did in the play?

*KH:* I haven't really judged myself on "my role" per se. I am amazed at what I have learned and accomplished as a person, and for that I feel completely fulfilled. I started rehearsals only two months ago, and could barely make it to practice without shaking. Every single time, regardless of what I was being asked to do, I was very nervous, to say the least. By the end of two months I was able to walk on stage with our peak show, reaching a capacity of 300 people, not feeling one bit of anxiety. That in itself is an accomplishment for me. Along with this, the fact that I was able to share the lives of seven formerly homeless, drug-addicted veterans, was a completely life-altering experience. The gratitude I have towards them and God for allowing me to be a part of their lives cannot be described. They are the most supportive, humble, genuine, and courageous people that I have ever met, and whom I learned an immense amount



**ALL SMILES:** Kasey Haley volunteered in a program for the homeless.

from. I cannot imagine my life without them. As they often tell me - "We are family."

3. Will you act in other plays?

*KH:* I don't know if I'll act in other plays. I think I would like to, but I'm still so "awed" over the experience that ended two days ago, that I have not begun even thinking of that yet. All I can say right now is "wow."

4-5. How long have you acted? Who motivated you to act?

*KH:* This is pretty much my first time. I performed in Annie and Peter Pan, and completed a Marriot advertisement, a Hertz Rent-a-car commercial, and an American Plastic Commercial all when I was eight-years-old, but I was always too shy for it I think. I'm still shy, but the difference now is that I am able to force myself to do something that I know helps me, even if I don't want to. I am able to control my heart with my head, and stretch myself beyond limits and boundaries. Acting is a sort of healing process for me. Being able to be comfortable with myself, as I am, on an everyday basis is a struggle in itself, but on a stage in front of tons of people is an even bigger struggle, and I feel so much stronger as a person, than I was at the start of it all.

6. Do you have any advice for incoming students?

*KH:* My advice for incoming students is to learn to do things that feel good to you. To not do

"Being able to be comfortable with myself, as I am, on an everyday basis is a struggle in itself, but on a stage in front of tons of people is an even bigger struggle."

-Kasey Haley, Biology

things to please other people, but to find your passion in all areas of life, and to pursue it as it feels right for you.

7. When will you graduate? When did you first come to the Mount?

*KH:* I will graduate May 2007 after five years of college, and switching my major four times, with a degree in biology-emphasis physical therapy. I transferred to MSMC from Sacramento State University in the

Interview date: 8/19/06

## It's a Jean Thing: denim is uniquely American

This past summer, I had the opportunity to travel to Paris, France.

by SONIA RIVERA  
Fashion Editor

Paris, along with New York and Milan, is known in the realm of fashion as one of the major fashion capitals.

While walking the streets of Paris, I remarked to my friend that hardly anyone wore denim. Men and women of varying ages streamed past wearing slacks, skirts, and shorts, but nobody wore denim.

While in the metro station, I spotted a couple both clad in Levi's jeans, relieved to not feel like such an outsider. It wasn't until they asked us for directions that I learned they were tourists!

When walking down American streets, it's rare to see anyone wearing anything that isn't denim, unless of course it's during business hours.

Ever since the early 1990s when Calvin Klein, one of the

most influential designers to come out of the 80s, introduced the designer jean, that other designers slowly followed suit.

Even Levis and Wrangler, two denim producers that have been around for several years, are now introducing lines that are more tailored to fit individual body types.

Instead of the standard Bootcut, Relaxed, and Regular fit, we have Slim, Skinny, Boyfriend, Curvy or Hipster depending on your store of choice.

I had a brief stint working at American Eagle, where the main focus of sales was to sell our denim lines.

What makes denim so important? It could be the fact that jeans can be dressed up or dressed down depending on the occasion; it could also be the fact that a good pair of jeans can last several years.

Whatever the reason, you can't go wrong starting off the new school year wearing your favorite pair of jeans.

## Museum provides glimpse of culture

□ New York can be called "the cradle of American culture."

by ALLISON KOERNER

Copy Editor

It had been a long night sitting in the terminal of JFK airport. I had taken a late flight with my husband, but he had not made hotel reservations, mostly due to last minute planning. As I sat sipping my coffee, I began to tell myself that we had made a mistake. Here I sat, in the massive airport of a strange city. I was bored, tired and anxious. The hours drifted by, and finally it was 5 A.M. The trains were beginning to run to Westport, and it was time to leave.

We hailed a cab. I sat quietly and looked out the window. Old brick houses lined neighborhood streets. Huge trees rose up from behind the sidewalks. This was New York? It was nothing like I had expected. Where were the skyscrapers and taxis I had expected to see? This looked

more like a small, quiet town than the huge, bustling city I had always heard of.

And then, there it was - Manhattan. It looked like a small cluster of buildings from the freeway. I had always dreamt of seeing the cradle of U.S. culture.

New York City really is overwhelming when one first steps out of the cab and takes a look around. Towering skyscrapers, masses of people moving quickly down the streets - certainly very different from Los Angeles! I stood outside Grand Central Station, taking in the beauty of this wonderful city.

My first experience there was Fifth Avenue, a street characterized by its stunning architecture and gorgeous people. I bought a blouse from Saks, and walked around the neighborhood. I was in love. I had never been to New York before, and now I never wanted to leave.

There are many extraordinary things about New York, from the architecture, to the restaurants, to the shopping. It truly must be one of the most beautiful and interesting cities in the world. Here, a person could never run out of things to see and do. It is a

## Facing cancer at 20 is a wake-up call

Never at the age of twenty did I believe I would be diagnosed with ovarian cancer.

by CLAUDIA SANCHEZ

Staff Writer

What scared me the most was the lack of information I had on cancer-associating cancer with loss of hair and death. Now, nearly four years after being diagnosed, I wonder how much of my disease I could have prevented. I concluded that information on this disease as well as my overall health would have made a difference and so I take on the responsibility of spreading awareness on cancer.

According to Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, more than 22,000 women in the United States will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer. Unfortunately not many symptoms occur in the early stages of this disease, making it harder to diagnose.

I remember my abdominal area mimicking that of a nine-month pregnant woman. Two months into my symptoms and three doctors who could not determine the cause of my swollen abdominal area, left me feeling hopeless.

Because there are few symptoms of ovarian cancer, as well as with other cancers, and because I did not know that I had a history of cancer in my family, it became a little harder to detect. It wasn't resolved until I visited my fourth doctor who administered an ultra sound, detecting liquid in my abdominal

area and a tumor the size of a deck of cards on my left ovary.

Doctors drained 20 lbs of liquid from my abdominal area before going into surgery to remove the tumor. At that point, it was not yet known if the tumor was a malignant or benign. A malignant tumor is cancerous. Benign tumors do not invade neighboring tissues and do

**Four years later, I am healthy and have a stronger awareness of my body and health as a result of the experience I had with ovarian cancer. I learned that I need to listen to my body and that no one knows my body better than I.**

not seed metastases, but may locally grow to great size.

After surgery, my doctor had informed my family and me that the tumor was malignant and had begun to spread to my abdominal area. This resulted in the removal of my left ovary, fallopian tube, lymph nodes that reached my abdominal area as well as a fatty layer. The doctor did not remove my second ovary because I was so young and he wanted to give me the opportunity to have children one day.

There are said to be four stages in ovarian cancer to

help detect the threat cancer may pose to the person and I was at level three. After surgery, I began Chemotherapy and anti-cancer drugs. Side-effects from the chemotherapy treatments did include hair loss as I had originally believed, but I also learned that not everyone loses their hair.

Some other side-effects were loss of appetite, nausea, vomiting, fatigue, and sensitive skin. Chemotherapy initially killed all the cells in my body, cancerous and non-cancerous. I found it harder to fight off any other illnesses like colds and flues, which rarely affected me before, due to the good cells like white blood cells. I also found it difficult to find energy to do simple things like get out of bed or take a shower due to the lack of good cells like red blood cells in my body.

Four years later, I am healthy and have a stronger awareness of my body and health as a result of the experience I had with ovarian cancer. I learned that I need to listen to my body and that no one knows my body better than I.

Throughout my experience, I wrote in a journal about how I was feeling, keeping notes of my medication and exams the doctor had me take. This benefited the doctor greatly, as for me as well. Anytime I go to the doctors and they ask me important questions, I can always refer to my journal which helps make the experience easier and quicker.

## Symptoms of Ovarian Cancer

- Abdominal swelling
- Gas, Nausea, indigestion that does not go away
- Frequent urination
- Unexplained change in bowel habits
- Abnormal postmenopausal bleeding
- Weight gain or loss
- Pain during intercourse
- Shortness of breath caused by the spread of the disease to the muscle under the lung. Fluid buildup in the area makes it difficult for the patient to breathe.

From Cedar Sinai and Wikipedia

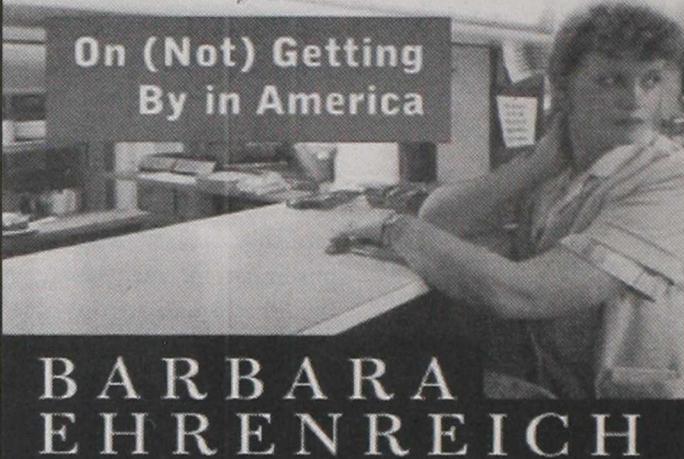
*The Working Poor:*

Book examines America's homegrown tragedy

THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER

# Nickel and Dimed

"Captivating... Just promise that you will read this explosive little book cover to cover and pass it on to all your friends and relatives." —Diana Hirsch, *The New York Times*



BARBARA EHRENREICH

**A**s many of you know from your experience during summer break, working

by YAHTI MACALI

Managing Editor

full time minimum wage is a discouraging concept. You fold clothes, flip burgers and pour coffee until your blue in the face. Then when you get your minuscule paycheck you can just barely pay your cell phone bill and catch a movie. Just imagine if you had to support an entire family with your minuscule check. Do you think you could do it? Now let's break it down: car payment averaging at 250 a month and rent for a one bedroom apartment in California averaging at 800 to 1000 dollars a month, then there is the only variable, food. Now do you think you could do it?

In the book Nickel's and Dimed: On (not) getting by in America, Barbara Ehrenreich chronicles the first hand experience of a low wage unskilled worker ranging from at \$6 to \$7 an hour. Ehrenreich worked as a waitress in Key West, Fla., as a cleaning woman and a nursing home aide in Portland, Maine, and in a Wal-Mart in Minneapolis. Her first hand observation of the working poor displayed the utter lack of examination or concern for the plight of these hard working Americans. Many were working two full times jobs, without health care and still remained on the verge of homelessness. The author herself who had immersed herself in the world of the Working poor, with

the starting kit that no real working class are afforded; a working car, and 1000 dollars in the bank, despite this she went hungry several times, was forced to live in trailer parks, as well as substandard motels and experienced a serious allergic reaction to cleaning solutions used in her maid work, she was to "work through it."

According to Roger Weinsberg, the director of social commentary film *Waging a Living*, "the idea that people can work full time in this society and still be poor is a crime." Many working poor hide their poverty in embarrassment and are too proud to seek out charity, they are truly the invisible class.

With the advent of Welfare to Work Program more than 20 million women and men are being forced off welfare with no or little education and thrown full force into unskilled low paying jobs where they often must work two at a time to survive. Who is raising the children? Where is the time for religious activities, the time for just being a human being?

I hope that this article will give you an insight into the plight of the working poor. These are people just like you who are doing their best, and doing it damn well considering the difficulty. The next time you interact with any worker, waitress, retail clerk: speak to her, acknowledge her, and say hello. Ask her, "How's it going." Try not to be to prima donnish. Just remember she lives and breathes like you do.

More info on film: *Waging a Living* directed by Roger Weinsberg

# The Oracle

Monday, October 23, 2006 -Vol.15-2



Photo by DANIELLE BATOL

**MASS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT**- Monique Grier, ASB President, leads the installation and blessing prayer for the '06-'07 ASB with Fr. George O'Brien, Chair of the English Dept. standing at her right and Dr. Jacqueline Doud, President of the college, at her left.

## "LET THE FIRE OF THE SPIRIT BE WITH YOU"

The Holy Spirit Mass was held in the Campus Center  
by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

ter on October 12 for all students, faculty, and staff.

"The thing that I like, is that it's a continuation of the Medieval tradition of a college of asking God to bring us together closer to God, to each other, and to the world of ideas," said Fr. George O'Brien, the celebrant and Chair of the English Department.

As the procession walked in headed by cross-bearer Dr. Matthew Brosamer, Professor in English,

the choir sang, "Veni Sanctus Spiritus," invoking the Holy Spirit to come down.

After the Gospel, Dr. Jacqueline Doud, President of the college gave a speech. Dr. Doud mentioned that after about six weeks into the semester, the glow at the beginning of the year wanes. Homework mounts. Energy levels sink. Thus, the Mass was a time to "pause and reflect on God's gifts."

Dr. Doud mentioned that we often think about our goals, but not our gifts. Referring to the first reading from Corinthians, "There are many gifts, but the same spirit," she re-

marked, "Our gifts are not for ourselves alone, but for the fulfillment and happiness of others as well," she said. She stressed the importance of the gift of being present, the gift of forgiveness, and the gift of gratitude.

The members of the ASB were inducted into the school year pledging to serve "for the common good."

"It's a great time to come to sing and feel connected to a community. Nothing lifts our spirits more," said Monique Greer, President of ASB.

"The Holy Spirit Mass is a great way to cool down before midterms. If you're

down, the music and the environment of the Mass brings you up," said Maryanne Nguyen, Senior, who coordinated the liturgy.

"[The music] enlivens the celebration. It's an opportunity for people to participate and it supports the ritual," said Laura Gomez, Coordinator of Campus Ministry and Music Director.

"Most Catholic Colleges have a Mass of the Holy Spirit at the beginning of the year, but we have ours in October," said Gail Gresser, Director of Campus Ministry.

## EDITORIAL:

*Appreciate the faces behind the counter*

Growing up in a traditional Honduran family allowed me to view the world in a humble perspective. My parents have always shared their childhood stories with me because they thought it would be important for me to learn about the "hard life" in Central America, in comparison to the ideal home life that everyone hopes for in the United States.

In third world countries, such as Honduras, almost everyone has a housekeeper because it's inexpensive. Therefore, in this case there is no social division. So many young women are on the street corners asking people for jobs, and a maid is always needed. In the United States, it is considered a luxury to have a maid because it's expensive and those that are well established are the ones that can usually afford the services.

Women immigrants that come to the United States in search of a better life many times begin with the position of a housekeeper since many prestigious communities are in search of one. Men usually start off by walking blocks to Home Depot waiting for the day a contractor will come along with a job offer. My father is a self-employed general construction worker and I always saw the hard work he had done. There was never a day when he didn't come home with rough hands and tired knees. His hard work inspired me to look at the world differently.

Christmas of 2004 was when I realized that my father's sickness had reached its acute level. He wasn't able to work as much and started hiring immigrants every time he made a stop at the Home Depot across the street from our house. I met all of the workers on the weekends when they'd offer to help clean for extra money. My dad never treated his employees as simply his "workers," but as striving

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# Congress and U.N. struggle to mitigate situation in Darfur

On Friday, July 23, 2004, the United States House of Representatives declared that genocide

by GERRY KRIEGER

Opinions Editor

was being committed in the Darfur region of Sudan. Since 2003, 400,000 people have been murdered and more than 2 million civilians have been displaced by government backed Arab militias known as the Janjaweed as the militias combat the two rebel forces in Darfur, the Sudanese Liberation Army (SLA) and the Justice and Equality Movement (JEM).

The rebel group's intention is to bring government attention and resources to the underdeveloped and unaligned Darfur region and overthrow the corrupt president, Omar al-Beshir. The displaced civilians live in refugee camps in Sudan

and the neighboring country of Chad, and are dependent on international aid and protection. The situation was declared a genocide for the Sudanese government's specific and systematic targeting and execution of black and Christian Africans living in Darfur.

In August 2006, the United Nations (UN) passed a resolution that allotted for 20,000 UN Peacekeeping troops to be deployed to Darfur to help maintain the fragile peace accord that had been signed several weeks earlier between the government, located in Khartoum, and the rebel groups from Darfur.

Sudan, which is a member of the United Nations council, has steadfastly denied that a genocide is taking place in its borders, and declared that the UN's dispatch of troops to Sudan would be "a hostile act."

On October 5, Khartoum

retracted that statement and is allowing the UN forces to assist the African Union, an international force made up of fifty-three states in Africa that manages the members' currency and assists with human rights issues.

On October 6, 2006, the UN announced it was moving 284 refugees from Sudan to Chad amidst growing vio-

**H.R. 5672 will provide \$441 million for UN peace-keeping in Sudan.**

lence between the government and the rebels. Close to a thousand other refugees are requesting transfer to a Chadian refugee camp after the UN relocates the first group of refugees this week. The UN also

stressed that the fighting in Sudan was making it extremely difficult to provide assistance to the people in Darfur.

Although the United States has declared the situation in Darfur to be genocide, making it tantamount to the ethnic cleansing of the Holocaust and the 100 Days Civil War in Rwanda, the US government has done little to aid the innocent and oppressed civilians of Darfur. During the first months of his presidency, Bush wrote "Not on my watch" in the margins of a report on the ten year anniversary of the genocide on Rwanda—and yet has failed to adequately respond to the genocide taking place during his watch.

Currently three bills are pending in Congress that address peace-keeping missions and funding for Darfur. The first, H.R. 5522, is a 2007

bill that would provide \$170 million for peace-keeping efforts to the African Union in Sudan, \$41.4 million of which would be designated for Darfur. This bill is important because the AU lacks sufficient supplies and resources. The bill was passed in the House and has not yet been voted for in the Senate.

The second bill, H.R. 5672, has passed in the House and the Senate subcommittee and is facing voting by the Senate. It will provide \$441 million for UN peacekeeping in Sudan.

The third bill, H.R. 723, is currently stalled in the House, but if passed would establish a no-fly zone in Darfur to protect the civilians from bombings and sky raids. Pressure from constituents is essential so that the members of Congress know that the genocide in

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## The Oracle

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### Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at oracle@msmc.la.edu.

## Letter to the Editor

*Re: Internet has diminished true social interaction*

When I read the editorial on this subject, I realized that the Internet has NOT diminished true social interaction. First of all, what is "true" social interaction? Meeting someone in person and having a conversation? What about writing and sending letters or having a pen pal? Aren't both considered socializing?

I also disagreed on many other things written throughout the editorial. I did not like how it made meeting people off the internet look bad, by saying, "... I met my boyfriend online seems so dirty and impersonal". Well, I just want to let other girls know that I met my boyfriend on an online profile and I am NOT ashamed of it. He is the most amazing person I have ever met. And without the Internet, I would have never met him.

Yet, I do understand feelings of shame, but WHY? If you are happy with the person you're with, why must we hide the truth? It is due to the close-mindedness of society. I believe it is actually the news, media, family, and friends

that put such a negative outlook on meeting people off the Internet (i.e. match.com, My-space, AIM).

Everything has its pros and cons. Life has its choices and you have to take risks and be careful at the same time. I don't think anyone should, or has the right to bad-mouth relationships shaped from the Internet. What about meeting a guy at a club? You don't know them. Should a person feel ashamed as well since they just met that person without properly introducing themselves? Is meeting a guy at a club just as shameful, as you say, as meeting someone online?

Overall, the Internet has caused me to be more social with my friends. I do not have the time to sit and wait for my friends to call or return my calls, much less join them for lunch. For example, that day, there was no Internet due to the power outage. Yes, it did give me time to write this, but then again, I did not socialize with anybody. So, in my eyes, there would be no socializing if there were no MySpace, blogs, AIM, emails, etc.

# Prayerful Decision Making Retreat challenges women

Sometimes it takes a whole five minutes to decide a simple decision

by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

such as, getting up in the morning. Another five minutes standing around at the cafeteria. Another split second to greet someone. We debate things in our head, but our decisions don't settle well in our hearts.

On September 30, the decision-making process was simplified for 18 women. Sr. Darlene Kawulok, CSJ, Professor of Religious Studies fine-tuned the presentation for women. Among the many facets of Rahnerian theology—the belief that one is made in the image of God, Sr. Darlene presented her own take.

1.) Giving value to our personhood is the fact that you as individual will never be repeated throughout human history. The more knowledge of yourself and where you are coming from, the better equipped you are to make good decisions. Also humans are relational beings, as opposed to objects used as a means to an end.

2.) To make good

decisions we can refer to our memory. "Memory is a place you can visit over and over again, but never have to stay in."

3.) Fear can also be projected onto us. We must be conscious of the

**"No one has a right to take your dreams away... except yourself."**

*-Sr. Darlene Kawulok CSJ, Chair of Religious Studies*

values we form out of fear, and aware of how society and the media can influence us. For example, people were called voters, now we are labeled consumers.

4.) We have the gift of free will. "No one has a right to take your dreams away except yourself," Sr. Darlene ex-

plained. We can make decisions according to laws, we can make decisions based on human morals, or we can make decisions according to relationships.

Sr. Darlene also shared that the parable of the talents found in Matthew 25:14-30 is about decision making. Jesus speaks of a master who gives five, two, and one talents (coins) to three servants. The one who has five talents produces another five, the one with two produces another two, but the third buries his talent "out of fear" of his master. At the end, the master admonishes the last one, taking his one talent and giving it to the first. Similarly, the servants' decisions resemble the real choices we make with assurance, confidence, or insecurity.

According to Sr. Darlene, we can see ourselves in the servant given five, two, or one talent. However, we can also identify with the master who parcels his money to three different people. The master signals decision-making power, to give how much we want to give.

# Sick and Tired of Being single?

Hey girls. Here are some helpful tips that will help you find your other half.

First of all, analyze your past relationships.

by MICHELLE DEL ROSARIO

Staff Writer

Why didn't they work? Look at things honestly and learn from your mistakes.

You also want to realize that you don't have to be in a relationship to be whole. I believe that it's actually better to be happy alone, than be miserable with someone else. The most important relationship you have is the one you have with yourself. From my personal experiences with relationships, I found that taking time to be single for a year helped me find out who I am, and thus find out what I want in a relationship.

In saying so, you should decide what kind of person you're looking for. Write down qualities you want in a husband/boyfriend. And don't just settle for the one that's available. It's more rewarding to wait for the one that you want.

And if what you're doing isn't working, change it. Do something

different. Don't be someone you're not, but have a broad range of who you are. A common mistake of many single people is that they try to change themselves for the person they are dating. When you do that, you're not being true to yourself and the relationship, and it will only come back to hurt you.

Acknowledge what you own in a relationship. If you look at relationships that haven't worked, the common characteristic is you! That means you own part of the problem. You create your own experience and control the choices you make. Your behavior and decisions have consequences. Take responsibility for them.

Overall, be your true self: genuine, authentic, real. Be who you are when you have no fear of criticism, or before society starts telling you who you're supposed to be. Don't be a fictional character who carries a social mask on to please everyone else. It won't work if you are looking for a long lasting relationship.

# Dodgeball: A True Mount Story on teamwork and fun

On October 4, at 6pm, several eager Mount students

by KATHLEEN ARAIZA

Staff Writer

met at the tennis courts for a much anticipated dodgeball tournament. Three teams consisting of four to five players participated in the tournament and were ready to work together, have fun, and most importantly—throw rubber balls at their fellow classmates.

No official team names were assigned other than Team 1, 2, and 3. The entire tournament consisted

of four rounds. The first round was played between Teams 2 and 3. Within a few minutes of the first round, Team 2 dominated Team 3 by taking every single player out with great force! Teams 1 and 2 played during the second round. Unlike the first round, Team 2 was unable to achieve a consecutive victory which left team 1 as the winners of the second round.

Unfortunately, the members of Team 3 were unable to redeem themselves in the third round and lost to team Two; the loss of the third round put

Team 3 out of the dodgeball tournament.

The final round between Teams 1 and 2 was an exciting finale that ended with team 2 as the winners of the fourth round. In reference to the one game her team won against Team 2, Senior and Team 1 member, Rose Cayan, told her fellow teammates, "at least we beat them (Team 2) one time!"

When asked about how it felt to win the final round of the dodgeball tournament, Freshman and Team 2 member, Ashley Price, said, "It feels so amazing because

"It feels so amazing because our team was united. It took every Team 2 member to win."

-Kelly Price, Freshman on winning the Dodgeball Tournament

our team was united; it took every Team 2 member to win". Throughout the dodgeball tournament all three teams displayed much enthusiasm and

sportsmanship, while the entire crowd cheered for every single player. Whoever said that dodgeball should only be played in elementary school?

# Economic Viewpoint: Minimum wage increase

To raise or not to raise? That is the question... Well, at least in California that question has been answered-Raise!

by KARLA RAMIREZ

Staff Writer

In September, Governor Schwarzenegger signed a law that gradually increases the minimum wage from the present \$6.75 to \$8.00 by 2008, making California the highest statewide minimum wage in the nation (San Francisco's minimum wage is \$8.82). Currently, the federal minimum wage is \$5.15 an hour meaning that if a full-time worker earns \$10,712 a year, he or she falls within the federal poverty line for a family of three.

Think about it in this sense, according to the 2004's National Low-Income Housing Coalition publication, the Californian minimum wage only covers 34% of the cost of a two-bedroom apartment-rendering this state one of the most expensive states in the nation. California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger vetoed

the bill twice before, until finally signing it last month. Even when the proposed bill was just a notion, opponents to the bill, republican economists and business owners, contended that increasing the minimum wage would have a backward effect causing unemployment to increase. Why is there so much negativity in California towards a bill that is supposed to help the low-wage working class, while Congress has given itself an annual cost of living salary increases for nearly a decade? The so-called answer lies in the belief that if the government increases wages, businesses will feel the pressure to cut their increasing operating costs by "laying-off" or reducing the number of employees hired for a job, especially among minorities and the low-wage workers. Hence, this leads to the impression that unemployment will increase significantly. Is it the case that statistics have been distorted to project a desired economic outcome? Let's take a closer look. Logically, the idea that jobs will be cut makes sense, but what these "pes-

simistic" economists, as I call them, fail to mention is that business entities tend to shove the inc-

Why is there so much negativity in California towards a bill that is supposed to help the low-wage working class, while Congress has given itself an annual cost of living salary increases for nearly a decade?

especially the restaurant industry, will be affected but not enough to be detrimental to California's economy as critics suggest. This same research

Francisco implemented its own minimum wage increase, the city's economy has not been negatively impacted; on the other hand, employers have been satisfied with the results, employees are happier, there is less employee turnover, which has led to the city's economic boom.

Since 1997, gas prices have increased by 140% and the California's cost of living keeps growing annually. 82% of workers who earn within \$1.25 of the minimum wage are adults between the ages of 20 and 64 (U.S. Census Bureau). Clearly, leaving behind the assumption that the most impacted group will be teenagers who have other sources of income. This minimum wage increase has been long overdue to better fit the realistic living costs of middle and low income adults in California. But unfortunately, the bill refuses to tie minimum wage with the inflation index. As a result, as inflation grows, wages will erode. So in the next several years, we will face a parallel predicament with the same bureaucratic jargon as an excuse. Does anyone care to differ?

bill that is supposed to help the low-wage working class, while Congress has given itself an annual cost of living salary increases for nearly a decade? Reased costs to the consumers. In other words, prices on consumer goods and services will inevitably go up. As stated in a 2005 report by U.C Berkeley's Institute of Industrial Relations, small businesses (categorized as 10-24 employees) would be impacted the most by a 1% increase and the operating costs for the food services industry would increase to over 2.5%. Indeed, businesses,

institution also suggests that increasing the minimum wage would reduce public spending that arises from assistance programs such as Medi-Cal, the Earned Income Tax Credit, and child care assistance. Basic macroeconomics tells us that the rise of household income through increased wages means consumers have higher purchasing power. In return, higher purchasing power means that consumers have the ability to buy more, stimulating a rise to production to keep up with increasing demands. Since San

## Upcoming Fall Fashion Alert: Belts

by YAHTI MACALI

Managing Editor

Ladies, the fall season is approaching fast and we must prepare accordingly. If you haven't noticed already the newest trend in popular fashion is the belt phenomenon.

The tight big-buckled, high-waisted belt is a must-have for this season. Not only does it accentuate your waist, it is absolutely slimming, and shape-enhancing. On top of all that, the belt can turn any old blah item of clothing into a fabulous ensemble.

The belt should be worn just under the ribcage for the premium

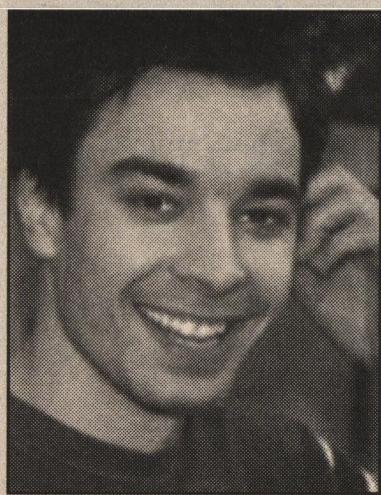
waist cinching results.

These belts are a perfect accessory and can be worn with dresses, or a combination of skirts and shirts.



### Some tips for optimum stylization:

- Pair a frilly white dress with a wide black patent leather belt
- A overcoat paired with a wide belt of a contrasting color
- A masculine shirt-dress (you can borrow a guy friend's) cinched off with a wide belt



## Jimmy Fallon vs. Aristotle

themes in *Waiting for Godot* and traditionalism in *Crime and Punishment*, but my heart isn't in it. I am not a big fan of philosophy.

Usually my disinterest in questioning reality or the unanswerable mysteries of life poses no problem; my friends and I are content merely to watch "Family Guy" and peruse the latest celebrity tabloid. It isn't until vacations, when my old high-school friends and I get together and The Race To Prove Who Is Smartest begins, that I am forced to discuss a millennia of old ideas. It's a dark and twisted game, every person wants to prove that their educational institution is better and that they have

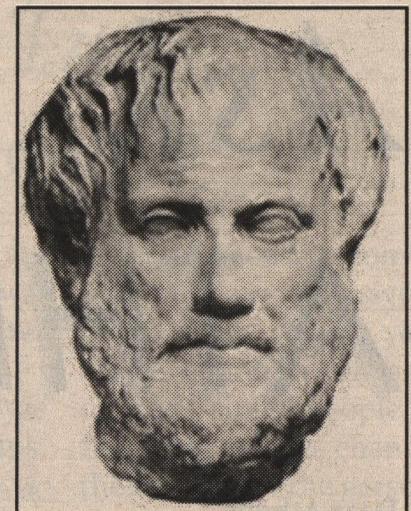
learned more, so everyone constructs long, articulate arguments centered on a silly theory and argues.

I refused to play the game over summer vacation, and sadly, this was how I won. My old friends were ridiculously arguing over whether there is truly good and evil in the world. To be honest, I had no idea what they were talking about; their arguments were overflowing with specific theoretical terms and were outrageously complicated and long-winded. I tuned them out, laughing to myself instead about a Dane Cook "Saturday Night Live" sketch I had just remembered.

One of my friends

asked my opinion about whatever hackneyed topic they were now debating, and offhandedly I said, "It's all relative." To be honest, I don't really know what that means. Apparently this was profound, however, and I earned a great deal of respect from my peers—for spouting a nonsensical phrase I learned in PHIL 15. After that, when philosophical questions were raised, I left the room.

I would much rather watch "SNL: The Best of Jimmy Fallon" and talk about how I love when Jimmy cracks up at himself in the middle of a sketch or about Britney Spears' latest baby than engage in a contest, discussing the same trite



ideas that people have been considering for 5,000 years. I see philosophical conversations for the sake of being validated as an intelligent person, to be absurd. And don't tell me that the postmodernist Jean-Francois Lyotard may have agreed with me—I don't care.

**P**hilosophy: A route of many roads leading from nowhere to nothing.

-Ambrose Bierce

by GERRY KRIEGER

Opinions Editor

Thanks to the core classes in philosophy that every MSMC student needs to take, I can discuss the theories of philosophers from Aristotle to Heidegger or analyze the existentialist

## What Happened to the Internet?

**B**ack in junior high, I had my own blogs, my own web page and chatted in chat rooms

by PAULA GAETOS

Photography Editor and AOL Instant Messenger. Of course, that was 1998 and I almost had to create those things from the ground up. Today, with online communities like MySpace and Facebook, the necessary knowledge of HTML or, at least, of working a WYSIWYG (What You See Is What You Get) program are no longer necessary. Having your own personal space online is so easy, it's practically expected. Many people have growing concerns over the lack of actual personal contact and interaction because of the Internet, chatting and online communities. While I don't disagree with these concerns, from my personal, geeky viewpoint, there are other concerns that need to be addressed. I have no qualms in saying that my life is built around my computer and

the Internet. My academic, monetary, entertainment and social resources come from computers and the Internet. My computer is an extension of who I am as a person—how I organize my desktop or the fact that I use both Apple and Microsoft says something about me. Before the growth of online communities as we know them today, there was such an openness and freedom on the Internet. One was known only by their handle or screen name; any other information wasn't necessary for fruitful interaction between users. There was anonymity between people and because of it, people were able to express themselves freely and explore the various elements of their personalities. Now people always want to see your pictures to know how "hot" you are or check how many "friends" you have. Sure, I have had friends online, but I kept in contact with them on a regular basis and shared personal interests openly without any concern on

**F**or most people and almost all who consider themselves geeks, technology is not just an extension of one's identity; it is a refuge away from constraints and pressures of society.

how each other looked like or one's status in life. In addition, there was a certain ownership and pride if you were tech savvy. Whether you knew how to program your own operating system, build your own computer, created your own website, or knew all the commands on a text-based role playing game, it was something that you put effort in creating and learning. Now having your own space online, complete with blog, comments, pictures, and email, is as easy as filling out ques-

tionnaires. For me, it's almost sad.

For most people and almost all who consider themselves geeks, technology is not just an extension of one's identity; it is a refuge away from constraints and pressures of society. Popularity on the web was based entirely on skill and knowledge. Your teammates in an online game do not care how you look in real life, just how well you're doing in the game. Members in an online forum won't care either. They only care whether you

submit relevant and insightful topics for discussion. Issues like looks, reputation, connections, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual preference are not factors in interaction unless specifically noted.

I feel like the world in which so many people like me hold with great esteem has been so belittled. From my view, it's understandable why many people feel so sucked into online communities and leave behind a life outside the Internet. Computers and the Internet are my passion and it is a conscious distinction. I make the effort to learn and create and implement these skills my life "outside". Going through the Internet without this kind of distinction, especially as the digital world continues to merge with the real world, can make you forget that there is another world outside.

# Ask ATHENA

Dear Athena,

I text-messaged a guy I like about something so simple and casual, but I felt completely retarded afterwards. So I ended up asking my closest friends their opinion on the situation to make sure that I wasn't coming off too weird or making it obvious that I liked him. How do I stop from over analyzing everything?

Sincerely,  
Over-Analytical Sophomore

Dear Over-Analytical Sophomore,

You are not alone in feeling weird for doing something that may seem innocent at first, but then upon thought seem like something dumb and over the top. It is completely reasonable to ask your closest friends their opinion on the matter, because they are more objective on the matter than you are. And because they are your friends, they most likely will tell you the truth about the questions you ask and give you their honest opinion about the situation. Over analyzing is just something we do naturally, all that you are doing is trying to protect yourself from being hurt. My suggestion would be to think about what you are going to do first, look at it from "his" perspective, and then see if it would seem weird. Most of the time guys don't pick up on subtleties and they just take things for face value. Keep that in mind, when you decide to do something.

Try not to think so much,  
ATHENA

Dear Athena,

I was in a relationship with someone for three years. Just six months ago, he broke up with me, and now he wants me back. I am having a very hard time forgiving him, and now we haven't been getting along. He thinks we both need to think. Is space okay? I just need some advice on whether or not we can salvage this, I really want to but I think I may have pushed him away by how hurt and non-ac-

cepting I was when he was trying to get me back. Any advice?

-Hurt & Non-accepting

Dear Hurt & Non-accepting,

Okay, first of all, you really have to find out in yourself if he is the one you want to be with, and whether or not it is worth everything that you are going through. You should also sit down and calmly talk to him about how you feel. From my past experiences, I have found that the reaction men make when you talk to them will determine it all. See how it works. Also, the six-month gap until he realized he wanted you back, was enough space.

-ATHENA

Dear Athena:

I've read that Mount St. Mary's College receives Millions of dollars of donations from people. Plus they keep the remainder money left over from our meal plan every week! What is all this money used for?

-Curious

Dear Curious,

The money unspent in your meal plan at the end of each week will be used for napkins, lightbulbs, and overhead costs. So feel free to use it all. Buy extra water, as your body needs at least eight glasses a day. Meal plans are included in the residence costs, which is better than paying extra for a meal plan. LMU students pay an extra \$2,000. Speaking of the donations, many people do not understand how much money it takes for a college to function. Professors' salaries, scholarships, maintenance, student activities, the PR department, the countless paper Mount students use, and so on.

- ATHENA

Dear Athena,

One of my girl friends has just recently met this guy. He invites her over to his place and he treats her like she is his girl. However, she tells me that when things start to get inti-



mate, or when she believes the "relationship" is progressing, he all of a sudden tells her that he only wants to be friends with her. It's the same cycle over and over again. She still goes over to his place, but he seems to be confused in what he wants. I believe he is leading her on and I told her that. I care about my friend, but I think she should stop seeing this guy, what should I do?

-Concerned Friend

Dear Concerned Friend,

I understand that being at an all girls' college may lead to some girls being desperate for male attention. As a good friend, you told her the truth about what you think. And now it is up to her to receive or refuse your wisdom. I'm sure you know that you can't make her do anything that she doesn't want to do, but this is one thing that she has to figure out for herself.

I advise your friend to sit down and talk to this boy about what she wants. Does she even want to be in a relationship with him? What does she want in a relationship? Now, friend, you tell this boy what you want, and if he doesn't fulfill your demands, then he is not the guy for you. It's better to wait for the guy that wants to be with you, than settle for the one that wants to be your "friend".

-ATHENA

Dear Athena,

I like this guy, but he has a girlfriend. I'm not trying to break them up, or be a home wrecker. I would just enjoy being his friend. But the thing is we are not even close, or friends, we are just more like acquaintances. How do I go about this?

Sincerely,

Your wannabe friend

Dear your wannabe friend,

First things first, you have to find common ground with the guy. You have to figure out what mutual interest you have, and go from there. Unlike girls, guys are much easier to become friends with. Once you get to the common interest, don't be afraid to invite him to hang out and do fun stuff, tell him to bring his friends over and such. In short you must become one of the guys. However, he does have a girlfriend so the chances are she is going to be highly suspicious of you, so to avoid hostilities, get to know her to and tell him to invite her as well. If she sees that you sincerely want to be friends, then she won't be as prone to make him not hang out with you. Remember though, this advice will only work if you are trying to be his friend, not if you are secretly trying to sabotage them.

Good Luck,

-ATHENA

# EJ's TOP TV PICKS FOR FALL 2006

It seems unfair that fall television season starts at the exact

by EJ MILKEN

Staff Writer

same time that our school year begins. It's a dilemma – should you study for your calculus test or watch the new show that has been hyped all summer? To help, I've

shows of the fall season. A luminescent and witty Amanda Peet (*The Whole Nine Yards*) steals the show as the new network president already in trouble on the first day of her job. She's gutsy nevertheless, and does it with graceful humor. Bradley Whitford (*The West Wing*) and Matthew Perry (*Friends*) have great chemistry as well.

**Ugly Betty (ABC):** America Ferrera (*Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*) plays Betty, a dowdy assistant trying

to make it in the world of high fashion. This dramedy is light and poignantly funny, and Ferrera is likable as is the rest of the cast, including Vanessa Williams as the villainous executive trying to sabotage Betty's boss. Some of the funniest moments in the pilot were on the television in the background at Betty's home which plays a Spanish soap opera starring Selma Hayek, one of the

watched most of them and weeded out the shows you should skip and picked five you shouldn't miss:

**Studio City on the Sunset Strip (NBC):** A star-studded cast and snappy writing on this show created by Aaron Sorkin about what happens behind the scenes of a Saturday Night Live-type show in jeopardy makes this one of the best new

producers of the show.

**House (Fox):** Returning for its third season, this show about a diagnostics team at a hospital that is tasked with solving unusual medical cases is better than ever. Golden Globe winner Hugh Laurie in the lead role as Dr. Gregory House is as ornery and brilliant as he has been in past seasons, despite a brief respite from leg pains that has him popping the Vicodin non-stop. The cast has truly developed their rhythm, and Lisa Edelstein and Robert Sean Leonard, who play the hospital administrator and House's best friend support House in this show as both friends and professional foes.

**Heroes (NBC):** Critics hate the show, but it is too early to tell whether or not this show will survive. The show is definitely ambitious: the cast is huge and all the characters live in different parts

of the world. The unifying link is that they all have powers that they are only beginning to discover and some terrible doom is impending. The characters are intriguing and well-cast and this show is sure to become a cult hit.

**Prison Break (Fox):** Eight prisoners, including brothers Michael Schofield (Wentworth Miller – *Human Stain*) and Lincoln Burrows (Dominic Purcell – *Blade: Trinity*) escaped from Fox River Prison at the end of the first season and are now on the run in this second thrilling season. Yes, you must suspend your disbelief during some of the implausible plot points, but the show is fun and fast-paced so we forgive the writers their faux pas. The addition of a warped FBI agent played by William Fichtner (*Black Hawk Down*) who is as diabolical as Schofield keeps us tuning in for more. And it's OK to admit that you

are only watching the show because Schofield and Burrows are great visual distractions from your schoolwork.

That's what I recommend so far based on the new shows that have aired. It's unfortunate that two new shows that have great potential will probably be canceled. The chemistry between the two leads in *Standoff* (Fox) is fantastic, and it is a nice change that a show about hostage negotiators doesn't take itself too seriously. *Runaway* (CW) starring Donnie Wahlberg as a murder suspect on the run with his family is better than most of the new shows on the air, but the ratings are so low that CW has already moved it from Monday nights to Sunday nights. To move it so early in the season probably means it will be canceled in the next couple weeks. Tune in next time as I review shows that air later on in the season.

## MOVIE REVIEW: Disappointing Dahlia

After the big summer movies, there are usually no movies

by EJ MILKEN

Staff Writer

to watch until December and January when movie studios are trying to get their movies in for Oscar contention. So I was looking forward to *The Black Dahlia*, a movie that takes place in the 1940s about the death of aspiring actress Elizabeth Short, a famous unsolved Los Angeles murder case. I had reasons to be hopeful: the movie is based on a novel written by James Ellroy, whose novel *L.A. Confidential* was the basis for a movie of the same name that was a critical darling and won several awards. The cast was comprised of some of my favorite actors: Aaron

Eckhart, Scarlett Johansson, and Josh Hartnett. And the trailers I saw made me anticipate the movie even more.

However, the movie was at best, disappointing and mildly entertaining. Aaron Eckhart was flat as the corrupt police officer on the case. It obviously did not help that he had terrible lines. If you want to watch Aaron Eckhart in a great movie, catch *Thank You for Smoking* on DVD where his performance is spot-on. Josh Hartnett as the earnest boxer turned gumshoe Bucky Bleichert who becomes Eckhart's partner is equally uninteresting and the love scenes between Hartnett and Hilary Swank, who plays Madeleine, a woman who looks like murder victim Elizabeth Short are robotic. Scarlett Johansson plays prostitute turned



housewife Kay, who has some on-screen chemistry with Hartnett but the love scenes are laughable at times, especially when Hartnett pulls the tablecloth off the table in the dining room to make love with Johansson. There are other comedic relief moments: Fiona Shaw, who plays Madeleine's alcoholic mother, plays her part very well, but the scenes feel out of place in this movie.

The plot is convoluted and unclear, and the

murder mystery (which I won't spoil for you here) is solved in an extremely unsatisfying way. The movie never sets a consistent tone – is it supposed to be funny? Dramatic? Depressing? Sometimes this works in a movie, but not in this one. The one bright spot in the whole movie is the performance by a relatively unknown actress who plays Elizabeth Short,

Mia Kirshner. Kirshner seems to be the only performer who is believable

**The Black Dahlia:** Josh Hartnett and Aaron Eckhart star in a movie based on James Ellroy's crime fiction.

in her role as a young, naïve and desperate actress in the 1940s, and she is radiant and pathetic, all at the same time.

If you must watch this movie because of the usually delicious Josh Hartnett, I'd save some of my cash and rent it on DVD. Otherwise, you might even skip this one and wait for other movies that are coming out soon with better reviews, like *Little Children*.

## SHORT STORY:

## What happened in the Basement?

**M**y mother and I were home alone, sitting on the

by FATIMA RAMIREZ

Staff Writer

couch Friday night, watching our favorite TV program as usual. Suddenly we were distracted by a strange sound. At first, we thought the sound came from the television, but it was not because my mom and I tracked down the strange sound to the basement. We asked ourselves, "What could be making the noise?" Perhaps, a rat was trapped in the basement and trying to escape. Both of us are terrified of rats, and my father was not there to release it, so we decided to leave the rat in there.

"Dad will be home soon," I told mom. "He can deal with it when he gets here."

It didn't take long for the sound to get louder and louder. We tried to ignore it by raising the TV volume, but suddenly the noise became so loud it sounded like it was pounding on the door. At this point, we couldn't ignore it anymore.

"What should we do?" I asked.

Building up courage, we decided to release the rat. My mother squatted down with a box by the door to trap the rat preventing it from hiding in another place. I cautiously put my hand on the door knob. I glanced at my mom for reassurance and she nodded to proceed. I closed my eyes, turned the knob, and opened the door. Nothing came out. My mom and I looked at each other and wondered why the rat did not run free.

Puzzled, we closed the door and laughed at each other for getting frightened. We went back to the living room and sat on the couch again. A few minutes later, we heard the pounding again.

"Your father is coming soon. Let him deal with it, let's watch the show and ignore it," Mom said.

The phone rang. I answered it. It was Dad. I told Mom the gist of our phone conversation: "Dad is going to work over-time; he won't be here until later."

The sound from the basement became overly annoying and again we decided to try and get rid of the rat. My mom grabbed two flashlights. She kept one and gave me the other, and we proceeded to the basement. As soon as we began down the stairs, we did not hear anything.

"Isn't that strange, Mom? Maybe the noise is not coming from in here." "Let's just make sure it is not. I don't want to go to the couch, try to watch TV again only get up once more," Mom said.

SLAM!

Mom and I both screamed. "What was that!?" I said. "I don't know, Mija." Mom replied.

I ran toward the door, but it was shut. "Mom, I left the door open... who closed it?"

"Stop playing games, Mija!"

"I'm not joking, Mom!"

I tried to open the door, but I couldn't. I began pounding on the door.

"HELLO? Hello? Can anyone hear me? Hello! Hello!"

I felt someone grab me from the back. Frightened, I screamed and dropped the flashlight.

"Let me go! Let me go! Mom! Where are you?" I heard nothing. "Mom!?" but there was no answer. I began crying hysterically.

"What is going on here? Why do you want to hurt me? Why?" I cried myself to sleep.

The sunlight woke me in the morning. As I slowly opened my eyes, I noticed a figure staring at me. It was a man dressed in white.

"How are you feeling?"

"What happened? Where am I? Who are you?" I asked.

"I am your doctor. Shhhh. Try not to speak. Just relax. You will be okay," he said.

"Where is my mom? I think she's hurt. All I remember is being in the basement and someone suddenly grabbed me and I... I... don't remember what happened. Is she okay? Can I see her?" I asked.

The doctor sighed

and stood there silently, looking down.

"Where am I?" I tried to stand up, but I couldn't. I was tied down to a bed.

"Untie me! What is this? Why am I here? Where is my mother!" I screamed.

"Mija" he said. "You are at a mental institution. You have a condition called Schizophrenia. Do you know what that is? It is a condition in which people hear things and create illusions in their head. They see things that are not there. You have been in this institution for ten years now. Your mother unfortunately passed away when you came here. Your mother had a deadly car accident and when you received the phone call about her death, you became hysterical. You couldn't bear the fact that your mother was gone. As a result, you cried and kept yourself in the basement because you wanted to be isolated from the world.

Your uncle came to your house looking for you to take you with them to take care of you but you were in the basement, he called for help and police came to your house and they found you in the basement. Your uncle thought it would be best for you to be here because professionals would be able to take care of you better. You wake up every morning saying the same thing and every day I have to explain this to you. The doctor stroked my hair to comfort me and waited for a moment, then he asked, "Do you understand?"

"I'm in a mental institution? I don't remember anything you're saying." I said.

"I'm very sorry, Mija," the doctor said.

"You're lying. You're just saying this to hurt me! Don't do this to me!" I screamed.

"It's time for your shot," the doctor said.

Three men came up toward me with big needles. Being strapped on the bed, I couldn't move. I just screamed. Then, everything faded into a pitch black room.

## ¡Hola! is all it takes

Cont. From Page 1

individuals looking for a better life. As they worked, my father fed them and offered them drinks each time they looked tired. Not only did my father nourish them, but he also offered his help in everything they did. As I observed these actions, I promised myself that I was never going to mistreat a person according to their social class. Seeing these workers involved in every day life inspired me to build connections with the employees on campus.

I make connections with the housekeepers at school in the morning everyday before I go to work, even if it's simply a smile. As I walk on the grass, I admire the beauty that the gardener has created. Each time I visit the cafeteria, I appreciate the nourishment that's given to me from our cooks and servers on campus. I greet and ask the cashiers how their day is coming along, and they share such beautiful stories-I even realized that one of them is from El Salvador, which is Honduras' next door neighbor.

## Current Situation in Darfur

Cont. From Page 2

Sudan is a paramount issue. Current situation is abhorrent and needs to be resolved with the help of

international aid, particularly from the affluent United States, who stood idly by as six million Jews were executed in the Holocaust from 1938-1945 and 800,000 to 1,071,000 ethnic Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in Rwanda in 1994—and then loudly proclaimed "Never again" and "Not on my watch." Ethnic cleansing is taking

place again, and it is our responsibility as human beings to help the people of Darfur.

Please visit [savdarfur.com](http://savdarfur.com) and [darfurgenocide.com](http://darfurgenocide.com) to learn about the genocide in Darfur, sign petitions to President George Bush and to Congress, to make donations, and to learn how to take action against the atrocities being committed.

Mon. Nov. 20: Hi-79°/Low-59°

Tues. Nov. 21: Hi-74°/Low-58°

Wed. Nov. 22: Hi-72°/Low-56°

Thu. Nov. 23: Hi-71°/Low-55°

Fri. Nov. 24: Hi-69°/Low-54°:

weather.com

# The Oracle

Monday, November 20, 2006 - Vol. 15-3

## DRESS TO IMPRESS, USE ETIQUETTE FOR SUCCESS

To prepare for the professional world, approximately 30 Mount students gathered for a seven-course meal at the 10th Annual "Don't Slurp Your Soup," held at the Doheny mansion.

"Thankfully, they taught us why the waiters serve you from the left and pick up your plate from the right, where to place your purse during dinner (under the table, in front of your feet), and that you can have a great time when you just be yourself" said Jasmin Palomera, Education major. "All those nuances can make a person more professional. It's about appearing more comfortable and confident since they are interviewing at the meal" said Monica Lond LeBlanc, Director of Career Planning.



Photo by LAURA LOPEZ

**ENJOYING THE SEVENTH COURSE-** Jasmin Palomera, education major, and Nancy Primo, Business major, enjoy their chocolate mousse.

## Students Address their concerns at Town Meeting

A town meeting discussing food service at the

by KATHLEEN ARAIZA

Staff Writer

Mount was held in the Lecture Hall on the twenty sixth of October. At this event students were given the opportunity to discuss their concerns on issues such as cafeteria hours, the quality of the food served, and meal plan prices. Besides students, faculty members were present at the meeting, ready to focus on as many concerns as possible. "We are running a typical food service program", explained Vice President of Administration and Finance, Chris K. McAlary. Along with McAlary, General Manager Jotanna Proescholdt, Executive Chef Francisco Alvarez, and District Manager Dave Herbert (all of which who are staff members of Mount St. Mary's food distributor, Bon Appétit) were present and ready to respond to the thoughts and questions of the students they serve.

Executive Chef, Francisco Alvarez discussed the improvement of the quality of the food served in the cafeteria within the last two years, such as the transition from serving frozen food to serving freshly prepared food. "I really want to work with you guys", explained Alvarez, who welcomed all Mount students to visit

the kitchen and observe the food as it is being prepared by the chefs.

A highlight of the town meeting was when freshman and concerned student, Cassandra Krieger presented thorough and accurate data pertaining to the opinions of a hundred Mount students she surveyed. With a poster consisting of pie charts and bar graphs, Krieger was able to show McAlary and the staff members of Bon Appétit the common concerns of the students who eat on campus. When asked on what inspired her to take on such a responsibility, Krieger stated, "I wanted to be James Madison. I wanted to have my Virginia Plan and create change".

Will a majority of the

"I wanted to be James Madison. I wanted to have my Virginia Plan and create change".

-Cassandra Krieger  
on presenting  
a survey of 100 students

concerns from this town meeting be resolved? The answer is unknown; however, what is important to remember is that concerns will never have the

possibility to change unless they are brought to the attention of those who have the power to implement change.

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**Music**Bamboozle Left...Page 5  
New Found Glory...Page 7**Advice**

Ask Athena...Page 6

**Entertainment**

Movie wars...Page 7

**Commentary**

Country vs. City...Page 2

# Visiting Virginia from a Californian's perspective

My trip to Virginia was a total unexpected outcome, but it's a trip that I will al-

by PATRICIA OSORIO

Staff Writer

ways cherish. Along with my road trip to Seattle this past summer, Suffolk helped me develop a different outlook on life.

I've lived in California for 21 years, but have always wanted to travel because I feel that the "country" outlook is forgotten here. I mean if you observe Brentwood, we've got Rodeo Drive offering the biggest clothing line stores at the highest prices. Hollywood, the top spot to find celebrities at and spend all your money while at it. \$20, \$30 plates of food surround you! Then you've got the bars with the loud people asking for beer, this city life almost sounds like a zoo! I

wanted to be a part of something different, a place where materials don't matter. I have a friend in Virginia who offered a place to stay while there, and I couldn't say no, I had money saved up for a trip anyway. I bought my ticket, and left the next week.

It was the nineteenth when I left, at exactly 12:40 pm on a Continental Airline plane. I was nervous at the same time because it was going to be first time I'd ever flown on my own, but I was also excited to learn about another state. My mom simply suggested that I stay calm, and it helped me, especially because she works at the LAX airport. When it was time to board, I couldn't help but think of whistling my way into the plane because I was so happy for this adventure in my life. I looked over my shoulder to wink at my mom and

blow her a kiss, and by the time I knew it, my right foot had already stepped into the plane!

The plane wasn't very big, which made it seem

Young men don't always offer you their help in Los Angeles because we've modernized a whole lot more. Half the time, men and women are on their cell phones, and block everything else.

as if there were more people in the plane then there

actually were. I found my seat quicker than I thought I would, and could only think of the magic that would happen once arriving in Virginia. By the time I knew it, I was in Suffolk! The airport was quite smaller in comparison to our airport (LAX). I could already feel the difference in size. Before I knew it, there was already a young man offering to hold my bags! Young men don't always offer you their help in Los Angeles because we've modernized a whole lot more. Half the time, men and women are on their cell phones, and block everything else.

As I learned more about my friends' neighborhood, I thought of Los Angeles, and how impacted everything is, especially technology. In Virginia, technology was the least of their concern. Half of the people I met through my friend didn't

even have cell phones, nor were they interested in one. My friend was a lot more interested in football, and spending time with family. His family was a lot more interested in spending time with their friends, even if it meant simply watching a movie at home with chips as the main dish.

I was able to sense the importance of unity the first day my friend took me for a walk around the town. The houses were close by, and you could just taste the family like atmosphere. There was this particular spot that reminded me of the film, *The Secret Garden*, because it was an unexpected hill that went down to more nature. The trees were so alive. The leaves were full of life hanging around showing off their shades of reds, and yellows. Then there

See Page 8

## The Oracle

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#### Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at [oracle@msmc.la.edu](mailto:oracle@msmc.la.edu).

## Note from the Editor

When I look around at my fellow classmates, what do I see? Pressures of school, demanding due-dates, part-time jobs, traffic of L.A., sleep-deprived college students. We are not always the cheerful, academically-focused, smiling people in college brochures. However, almost close to the end of the semester, we need to remind ourselves why we are attending this college. Some students, myself included, have mothers who had none of these opportunities of education. Others have decided to pursue an education for its inherent worth. Some for getting a good job. Whatever the reason, don't forget this college experience is a privilege and to utilize resources available. Such as *The Oracle*. The English Department, here is extremely strong, (you can guess my major/bias), yet you do not have to be an English major to be a critical thinker. Thinking is part of every major here. My point is, *The Oracle* is a student-run publication that opens its doors every month to new writers and readers. The Oracle provides a variety of articles from opinions, fea-

tures, and reviews.

This November issue features health-related topics written by two nursing majors Michelle Del Rosario and Hao Le. Movies are covered by EJ Milken and fashion by Sonia Rivera. A travelogue is written by Patricia Osorio and a restaurant review by Paula Gaetos.

Thanks to everyone who contributes to *The Oracle*. While everyone has their own priorities and schedules, these writers have cranked out a thoughtful article and shared their investigations with others. And special thanks to our adviser, Matthew Brosamer, who looks from a distance and admires and grimaces at every issue.

Lastly, we are looking for a qualified candidate for the position of editor-in-chief for the next 2007-2008 year. You will be trained in a layout program called Quark Xpress. However be warned, you should be at least some-what computer saavy unlike our friend Claudia M. Sanchez here, who wrote some tips to get along with your computer. See page 4. Have a Happy Thanksgiving!

-Jenny Park

# How to avoid abusing the computer and your body

**A**s a college student, I know how much time many students spend at the computer, especially when we wait until the day before a paper is due. After having a baby, I wanted to make sure to hit the gym and get my body into shape. Now that I am back in school, I have had fewer visits to the gym and more to a computer screen. My back hurts more, my hands are taking a beating when typing on the keyboard, and my eyes hurt more from focusing on the screen.

After complaining about the love-hate relationship between me and my computer and how it was abusing me as much as I was abusing it, I decided to look online and use the computer to help

## What is sleeping paralysis?

**T**he first time I experienced sleeping paral-

ysis was about 5 years ago. For those of you who have never experienced or heard about this, it is also known as "old hag", "the dead climbing on top", or as "the witch riding your back".

After experiencing multiple paralytic states while I sleep, I decided to research what was going on with me. What I found was that sleeping paralysis is common among people. As the name implies, it is a temporary paralysis of the body shortly after waking up or shortly before falling asleep.

Yes, it can be frightening especially if accompanied with hallucinations, but for a vast majority of cases, it is not. As you are sleeping, your mind wakes up but your body is still asleep. Usually, I feel

**R**ecognize that people tend to hunch in front of the keyboard. To counter that, perform the following exercise: open your arms wide as if you are going to hug someone, rotate your wrists externally (thumbs going up and back) and pull your shoulders back. You will feel a stretch in the scapula area.

make this relationship a little easier. I found a useful website called [Wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com) that lists exer-

cises that could be done in front of a computer. Below I listed a few of my favorite.

**Fighting the paralysis by struggling to wake up does not help, and only makes it last longer.**

restlessness. Occasionally, you may fear going back to sleep by worrying that it may occur again, but this can pass quickly.

Sleeping paralysis happens when the brain is awakened from an REM state and snapped into a normal fully awake state. While on the other hand, the body is paralyzed and unable to move. I realized

that it only happens to me when I sleep in or alternatively, lack sleep. And if it does happen, I fight it by taking deep breaths and let it pass. Fighting the paralysis by struggling to wake up does not help, and only makes it last longer.

Other possible causes for sleeping paralysis may be due to post-synaptic inhibition of motor neurons in the pons region of the brain. But little is still unknown about this unique episode while sleeping.

I've also read that some individuals even experience an "out of body experience (OBE)" while sleeping. Someone who is experiencing this, feels as if they are out of their bodies and floating around. But who knows? Maybe they are. But, I think I will leave that topic alone, which is another different issue.

So please visit <http://www.spis.org.uk/> for more information on sleep paralysis.

- Stand up every half hour. Walk around a few steps, stretch your legs, and give your eyes a break from focusing on your computer screen.

- Roll your head slowly from side to side a few times periodically.

- Stretch your arms, legs, neck, and torso while sitting. This will help prevent you from feeling stiff.

- Take care of your eyes. Follow the 20-20-20 rule espoused by eye doctors: For every 20 minutes spent focusing on your computer screen, spend 20 seconds focusing on something 20 feet away.

- Roll your wrists regularly and stretch your hands to avoid carpal tunnel syndrome if you type a lot.

- Recognize that people tend to hunch in front of the keyboard. To counter that, perform the

following exercise: open your arms wide as if you are going to hug someone, rotate your wrists externally (thumbs going up and back) and pull your shoulders back. You will feel a stretch in the scapula area.

• Sit properly in a good chair designed for desk work. Your back should be straight, and your head and eyes should be looking directly at your monitor. Your wrists should not be bent.

Many of these examples are my favorite and benefit me. I tend to slouch whether or not I sit in front of the computer so these recommendations are very helpful to me.

I recommend [Wikihow.com](http://www.wikihow.com) for other examples.

### Health Alert:

## Three Date Rape Drugs to be aware of

**I**f you go to a party, keep this in mind: Date rape

by HAO LE

Staff Writer

drugs may be slipped into your drink. These drugs may cause you to lose consciousness and give you the inability to refuse sex. Some of the common date rape drugs used at parties are: GHB a.k.a "Ecstasy" in the pill or white powder form, Rohypnol a.k.a "Roofies," and Ketamine.

GHB has odorless properties that make it undetectable. Other names of GHB include: Liquid Ecstasy, Easy Lay, Grievous Bodily Harm, Cherry Meth, Growth Hormone Booster, and Gook.

Rohypnol also contains odorless and tasteless characteristics that when slipped into drinks will cause sleepiness,

blackouts, and loss of control.

Finally, Ketamine, a.k.a. Special K or Vitamin K, causes numbness, an out-of-body feeling, and a dream-like experience. Also, believe it or not, alcohol is considered a date rape drug as well because it impairs your ability to decide and alters your sense perception.

So if you drink, follow these advices to avoid unwanted sexual contact:

1. Always attend parties with friends you trust
2. Never leave your drink unattended, if you need to use the restroom give it to a friend to look after it.
3. Don't drink things offered by someone else
4. Most importantly, never mix drinks or alcohol with drugs because the toxicity level increases in your body.

# L.A. Learning Disabilities Assn. Conference sheds light on ADHD in adults and children

**D**id you know that ADD or ADHD can be found in

by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

adults, as well as children?

*The Oracle* was invited to a conference entitled, "The Real World of Children and Adults with Learning Disabilities and Attention Deficit Disorder."

Attention Deficit Disorder or Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder is more complex than portrayed in the media, according to the LALDA. The conference discarded the stereotype of the child unable to "sit still." Although a diagnosis is required by a trained psychologist, an adult who daydreams in the car and has an accident is characteristic of those who have ADHD.

ADHD may describe the type of pattern where one may jump between six different tasks and

complete half of them, in contrast to someone who worked consistently on one task.

Melissa J. Thomasson, Ph.D. presented on Women and ADD and aimed at understanding

**Like many disorders, there are mild, moderate, and severe levels. It becomes a problem when the disorder controls the person, whereas the person should control the disorder.**

the wide spectrum of genetic, environmental, and experience-based effects on women. She also un-

covered the myth that ADD is found only in boys, mainly because people think girls are more socially adapted. Thomasson said this was not always the case.

Like many disorders, there are mild, moderate, and severe levels. It becomes a problem when the disorder controls the person, whereas the person should control the disorder. This was consistently stressed in three sessions: Treatment of Women With Substance Dependence, ADHD/LD, and Mental Health Issues; Inside The World OF Tics - Living With Tourettes, and Revealing Insights into The Minds And Struggles of Special Needs Children.

Hyperactivity may range in the high school student who stays up until 2 a.m. studying to get an A and to the underachieving student who is proud of being a "slacker." Thomasson gave the example of Bart Simpson as exhibiting typical ADHD character.

ADHD may range to the hyperactive to the inattentive, to the impulsive over-achiever to the daydreamer. Some people mainly have problems focusing and some are hyperfocused. "Some girls block out their suffering and just achieve," Dr. Thomasson said. In ADD, the brain stem is fighting with the signals, she said.

Part of the symptoms in ADHD and also found in Tourettes Syndrome is hypersensitivity to stimuli. Often reactions to stimuli, such as tics, are made worse when suppressed.

Dr. Brian Goldfarb, Ph.D. and David Marcus, M.D. provided much insight in the "Inside the World of Tics." Tics can start at age seven and falter through the late teens.

Tourettes Syndrome is genetic. The session stressed that there are many ways of re-orienting oneself. There are many solutions, and containment is one. Medications may show a 30-40% decrease in the tics. Al-

ternatives included support groups and cognitive-behavior therapy. Brain maturation also lowers the tics. "Why are we trying to stop this?" Dr. Goldfarb said, suggesting that parents and educators should be wary of suppressing the tics.

The keynote speaker connected learning disability to genetics and "The Genomic Era." Susan L. Smalley, a professor from UCLA, identified specific genes that are linked to child and adolescent ADHD. In the "Genomic Era" there will be a greater need to understand these new personality types, she said.

According to Smalley, meditation and mindfulness may significantly help teenagers dealing with ADHD. The mindfulness is helpful to pull the mind back to the present reality, Dr. Smalley said. Simple breathing exercises would improve attention and reduce stress and anxiety in many teens.

## Upcoming Winter Fashion Alert: Coats

**W**alking into the Brady Dinning Hall, I was sur-

by SONIA RIVERA

Fashion Editor

prised to find my friend wearing a bathrobe. I asked my friend why she was wearing a bath robe and she replied that she was wearing it because it was cold. Given the fact that it was a particularly cold evening I understood her need to bundle up, but a bathrobe is no proper way to protect oneself from the elements.

This fall the coat has come back in style. It's true that past seasons have emphasized bundling up and layering to keep warm, but this fall and winter classic coat styles such as the pea coat, trench coat and 60's inspired coats. Although the

weather has been wavering these past few weeks from being cold to warm nothing is wrong with being prepared.

The key to purchasing a great long-lasting coat is to keep in mind that you shouldn't sacrifice comfort and warmth for a coat that's main purpose is to look good.

For a classic look guaranteed to always be in style I would recommend the pea coat, which is now available in a shorter cut, accentuating the waistline. The pea coat offers both a stylish and warm option for fall and winter. Another classic coat that is seeing resurgence in popularity is the trench coat. Although originally a long coat, they now also offer them in shorter cuts at stores such as Old Navy. Just beware that although it may be fashion-

able the coat does little to offer protection when it's very cold, in order to maximize your comfort I would recommend wearing it paired with a long sleeved shirt or a thin sweater.

An alternative cut for a coat is the belowy 60's cuts. The coats create a bell shape when worn. For an updated look that will prevent you from looking like a grandmother, pair the coats with a tunic and leggings. Forever 21 has a great selection of different cuts, both long and short for a great deal.

Either coat you choose, just keep in mind that comfort or warmth should be the deciding factor.



### SONGWORKS

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## Concert Review:

## Bamboozle Left takes a cue from Warped Tour

Looking to be one of the most entertaining concert events

by JESSICA JONTE

Staff Writer

of this season, Bamboozle Left rocked Cal Poly Pomona October 15 and 16. This was the first Bamboozle to hit the west coast; the original Bamboozle began in New Jersey six years ago. The two-day show featured bands from the list of "almost famous" on down to the "trust me, you've never heard of us" crowd.

The big name draws were, Dashboard Confessional- led by master heart-string tucker Chris Carrabba, Brand New- the Jersey boys who made good with their album "Deja Entendu," Thrice, and 30 Seconds to Mars. Taking place on the Cal Poly Pomona Athletic field, the Bamboozle promoters seemed to take a cue from the Warped tour by having up to 5 stages. At most two bands were playing at a time, but as the more well-known acts took the stage, there was more allotted time, so you wouldn't have to choose. The concert promised to play "rain or shine." Luckily it didn't rain, but there definitely wasn't any 'shine.'

Making my "impressive list" was small band, Over It, who played an acoustic set with a Jack Johnson sound. Gracing the Epitaph stage was Chris Conley, the masterful voice of Saves the Day who also played a full-out acoustic set of his band's songs. The cool thing about his set, other than it sounding fantastic, was that he took requests from the audience.

Nerdy boys with a lisp-Hello Goodbye- were totally cute, with a fun, polyphonic-pop-dance sound and some of the best damn epileptic shimmerying ever. Other heavy hitters were Cobra Starship who played good-enough butt-shaking music that the clouds parted for the end of their set, and Gym Class Heroes whose funky raps and a lead singer's good personality (apparently honed while a pubescent fat kid) provided simple, good fun.

Taking the last slot on Saturday was Dashboard Confessional, who is usually a fan favorite and has everyone singing along. However, they didn't quite receive the warm reception I expected and in fact seemed like a cheap whore, trying not to upset a crude and demanding audience. His

The way I see it (no, you won't be seeing this on a Starbucks' cup), if you sound like a lion roaring with a microphone in your mouth, and I can impersonate the same sound, then that's not talent.

set was still quite flawless, except when he attempted to pull in a line from his tour openers "Say Anything." Let's just say there are certain things that don't sound right coming out of Chris' mouth.

Jacks Mannequin was second to last in Saturday's line-up. Their performance and the crowd were full of so much energy that their set ended with roars of applause and Andrew, their lead singer, jumping a top his keyboard. The entertainment did not stop there however, and Andrew continued to play beginning the song "Konstantine," a tragically beautiful- nine minute-epic- written while still performing with former band Something Corporate.

Other concert favorites, included free sampler CD's, meet and

rate. As he continued to play, one by one the original members of Something Corporate began to take the stage. This was the surprise performance the line-up list had alluded to, and what a wonderful surprise it was. This moment was so particularly moving that two of my concert companions and I were moved to tears. 1) From the sheer excitement of seeing this unexpected reunion, and 2) Because as I mentioned, "Konstantine" is unbelievably moving. The band wasn't a one number band though, and they graced the audience with their melodies "I Woke Up in a Car", and "Hurricane".

Other concert favorites, included free sampler CD's, meet and

greets with almost every band that played, and cheap threads. The awesome Vagrant label was offering what seemed like their entire catalogue for five dollars each. Even more exciting, your favorite performers might be standing right next to you. One blogger even wrote that members of The Mars Volta were in the crowd.

Saturday was definitely much more appreciable than Sunday's line-up. Brand New was awesome, but the other bands started to sound like the Rolling Stones- you know when all the songs sound alike- and not in a good way. The way I see it (no, you won't be seeing this on a Starbucks' cup), if you sound like a lion roaring with a microphone in your mouth, and I can impersonate the same sound, then that's not talent. To be completely fair though, one anonymous concert attendee assured me that Sunday's bands were totally awesome, and they all killed. Ah, to each their own. All in all, Bamboozle Left was a wonderful way to spend a weekend- too bad it was the weekend before mid-terms.

## The Tudor House: Offering a Taste of Britain

The next time you and a few friends are around Third

by PAULA GAETOS

Photography Editor

Street Promenade out for some shopping, head over to the Tudor House on the corner of Santa Monica Blvd and Second Street for lunch. The Tudor House is the oldest and best-known tearoom in the United States and it is quite possibly, the most charming and quaint lunch experience you will have.

The Tudor House of

fers a full lunch and afternoon tea. The Tea Room is a quaint place with fine china and lacy décor. Their menu contains pies, salads, traditional English sandwiches, and soups. For a heartier meal, the Chicken Curry Pie contains chicken, onion, tomato, peas all in a mild curry sauce. The pie is prepared fresh in house and deliciously flaky. For a lighter meal, the Tuna Salad on English Crumpets is a good choice. The tuna salad is made fresh and very light on the mayonnaise. Crumpets are cakes made from flour or potatoes

and yeast. They are circular and have a flat top with small holes—think of a fluffier English muffin. Both of these lunches come with tea and the House salad, which is made with green leaf lettuce, red onion, carrot, tomato, grapes and sprinkled with feta cheese.

The highlight of the Tudor House, of course, is their teas. It is almost intimating just how much variety of teas the Tudor House offers—from strong black teas served with milk and sugar, to light green or herbal teas. When in doubt, utilize the Tearooms friendly wait

staff, who are more than willing to offer helpful suggestions. They may even offer to surprise you with a tea that is best suits your taste. If you like black tea with milk and sugar, try the Barry's Tea, which is a traditional full bodied Irish blended tea. Barry's have blended these award winning teas for a hundred years.

Also, once your meal is finished, visit the adjacent gift shop. They sell various teas, imported British goods, gift baskets that can be custom-made, and an extensive collection of English china and tea related ac-

cessories.

This place certainly allows a little quiet place way from hectic college life. It is a wonderful alternative to hanging out at a Starbucks or having lunch at In and Out.

To learn more about the Tudor, visit their website: <http://www.thetudorhouse.com/>

Recommended Dishes...

- 1) chicken curry pie for \$7.50, \$2.50 for tea
- 2) tuna salad on English crumpets for \$7.50

# Ask Athena

Dear Athena,

I don't have a car on campus, and I wanted to know if you had any suggestions on ways to get off the hill.

-Stuck on a hill

Dear Stuck on a hill,  
It's a killer when you don't have a car on campus, I'm not going to lie. However, you need to learn how to utilize the tools around you. On the weekends Resident's Life and SACS put on activities to get you gals out and about. ASB's Social Event's Chair also plans activities that are off-campus. On the weekends, Stoptrans- the van with the purple logo, takes you to the Westwood area, where you can hang out and have fun. Plan accordingly with the schedule and let the driver know how much time you need. Lastly, my advice is to be nice with those that have wheels, especially if they live on campus. They are usually eager to get down off the hill too. If you're driving off-campus, please remember to make a RIGHT on Chalon Drive, obey the traffic signs and try not to hit a deer.

Dear Athena,

I just graduated high school in 2006 and started here at the Mount this Fall semester. I heard about the unavoidable "freshman fifteen." What can I do to prevent the weight gain?

-Freshman 15

Dear Freshman 15,  
Yes, it is true... most freshman gain anywhere from 5 to 20 pounds their first year mostly because they are stressed out, resolve their stress by eating, satisfying that midnight craving for In-N-Out. They may also



start consuming more alcohol on Thursday nights. To prevent the weight gain, you need to be conscience of what you are consuming. If you're out drinking the night away, don't scarf down chocolate and brownies the next morning. Cut down your large calorie consumption to about twice a week. (I'm not saying to not eat, but I to limit the alcohol fest, and In-N-Out runs to once or twice a week). Salads are healthy for you and a great way to snack, but watch out for those tricky calories that hide in the dressing and the croutons. Try to eat a balanced meal, make sure to get all the food groups in those meals, and exercise regularly. If you are commuting and have no time to exercise, park at the bottom of the hill and walk up, you'll burn at least 300 calories on the trip.

Try holding a textbook in each hand and pump while climbing. Lastly, drink lots of water, it fills you up, keeps you hydrated, and gets the toxins out of the body.

Dear Athena,

How do I stop my guy friend from liking and viewing me as more than

a friend? I simply want to be friends, but am not sure how to come across in that manner.

-Likable

Dear Likable,  
The best way to go about this problem is with sincere honesty. Just let him know that you just see him as a friend and nothing more. If he doesn't get the message, and he keeps on making advances, you need to put your foot down. Let him know that you value the friendship, but the way he is acting is inappropriate, and harming the friendship. If he doesn't understand this and won't back down, then he was never a good friend to begin with, and you need to nip that unhealthy friendship in the butt.

Dear Athena,

My Roommate and I agreed that we would not have people over after a certain time. She has broken this agreement and now I am stuck in the room with her friends when I am trying to sleep. I really want to tell her my feelings because it really bothers me, yet I don't want to hurt her feelings. I am afraid that I will say

something to her that will make her feel bad and that is not my intention. How should I tell her?

- Annoyed

Dear Annoyed,

It is difficult to live with people because you have to adjust to their style of living and visa versa. However, you must understand that you are "stuck" with this person only for a few weeks, so you have to make it through, and you will. I know that it is difficult to confront someone on an issue that bothers you, but if you want to make things work, you will have to do so. You said that you and your roommate had agreed to not have any people over after a certain time, correct? Well, you can use that agreement between the two of you as a form of approaching the situation.

Set aside some time to speak with her. If she is in a rush, tell her something like, "Hey, can we have lunch today? I wanted to talk to you about something." Hopefully she'll get the hint that there is something important to be talked about and she'll be prepared for it when you do. Tell her what you feel, but be wise with your words. Don't make it seem like you are accusing her. Try something like, "Remember we agreed that...? Do you think we have done a good job keeping with that agreement? Do you feel I have kept my part of that agreement?" You want to ask questions because you want to find out how she feels about the situation.

Remember your view on things might not be the same as hers or his. Then depending on how they answer, you want to address the real issue with her, such as "You see, lately I have noticed that you have brought people over after this certain time. It would mean a lot to me if you can understand where I'm coming from and try to do your best to follow our agreement. I will continue to do the best I can as well." You don't want to come across as someone that accuses

the other person because once you do, they will become defensive and prideful and will not listen to you. Hope this helps!

Dear Athena,

I am sure I am not the only one wondering and asking this, but, why were men admitted to the undergrad program? It can't be because the school needs their money from tuition, because there are plenty of H.S. female students willing to put out that money for the college's Nursing and Music program.

- Wondering

Dear Wondering,

Men have been admitted to the nursing program for many decades at the Mount. They have good reasons to attend and the college has good reasons to accept them. To receive grants from the state, which forbids gender discrimination, the college had to open its doors to men. Nursing is a growing field that requires men as well, especially in lifting heavy patients. The graduate program at the Doheny campus also accepts male applicants.

Dear Athena,

What do you suggest to meet new people?

- Curious

Dear Curious,

You will be meeting new people constantly in your lifetime. The funny thing is, you don't always get to pick who comes your way. That's for the Fates to decide. The best thing, according to the Greeks, is to always be ready to greet and accept people with hospitality and kindness anywhere. You never know who they might turn out to be. Then, people will be trying to seek your acquaintance, friendship, attention, help, whatever it may be, and not the other way around.

# When Movies Compete: *The Prestige* and *The Illusionist*

Two movies about European magicians were released months apart from each other this year: *The Prestige* and *The Illusionist*.

by EJ MILKEN

Staff Writer

leased months apart from each other this year: *The Prestige* and *The Illusionist*.

You might have noticed that Hollywood does this quite frequently. Movies about 9/11 were released almost simultaneously, *United 93* and *World Trade Center*. Two epic, classical-period movies were also released in 2004, *Alexander* and *Troy*. *Chasing Liberty* and *First Daughter* were both teen romance movies about the daughter of the US president that were released at the same time as well. Are the executives in Hollywood just masochists who like to add to the nerve-wracking tension of movie release numbers?

Actually, the answer is yes. To put it simply, movie studios compete. Sometimes, they are hoping to ride on the publicity and marketing of a similar movie being released at the same time. Releases can also be driven by timing: they must be released when the movies are either rel-

evant or there is public interest in the subject. For instance, *World Trade Center* and *United 93* were both released to mark the fifth year anniversary of the 9/11 attacks.

When a movie script is pitched, a studio may pick it up and put it in their development slate, but often it will sit there for years, until the right talent comes along. For example, *Thank You for Smoking* sat untouched for ten years at Icon Productions, Mel Gibson's production company, without anything happening. Then, a competing studio or production company announces their plans on a movie based on the same idea with a big actor or director attached. It is greenlit and goes into production immediately.

All of a sudden, the script at the original studio is dusted off and presented to another big director or actor. The conversation to lure Colin Farrell into the Alexander role may go something like this: "Warner Bros. is doing a movie about Troy with Brad Pitt attached." Or vice versa. At this point there is interest, because everyone in Hollywood reads the trades and track entertainment news obse-



popmatters.com

*The Prestige*, released Oct. 20  
Director: Christopher Nolan  
Cast: Hugh Jackman, Christian Bale, Michael Caine, Scarlett Johansson, Rebecca Hall, Andy Serkis, Piper Perabo, David Bowie  
(Touchstone Pictures, 2006)

Rated: PG-13

sively so Colin probably already knew this.

Then it is a race to complete both movies if one doesn't fall out because of a myriad of possible production problems. Then, release dates are announced and sometimes they end up at the same time. One may also be moved, if the movie is exceptionally good or bad.

Usually, one of the movies is better than the other. It is hard to find movies that are equally good. Sometimes both are very bad. Interestingly, *The Illusionist* and *The Prestige* were both pretty enjoyable to watch. Both star great character actors on the cusp of megastardom,



themoviebox.com

*The Illusionist*:  
Director: Neil Burger  
Cast: Edward Norton, Paul Giamatti, Jessica Biel, Rufus Sewell, Eddie Marsan  
(Yari Film Group, 2006)

Rated: PG-13

Edward Norton (*The Illusionist*) and Christian Bale (*The Prestige*). Both do a good job with their roles, and they are believable in their roles as magicians who strive

See Page 8

## ALBUM REVIEW :

### New Found Glory's *Coming Home* resonates with energy

Even after nine years of making music, New Found Glory

by DANIELLE MARTIN-DEL-CAMPO

Staff Writer

is still able to bring the pop-punk scene back to play. With songs like "Oxygen," which glorifies the sounds of their guitars, their latest album, *Coming Home* is far more than just another disc to add to your iTunes. Their first single off of *Home*, "It's Not Your Fault," has an easy-paced beat, mak-

ing the chorus one that you'd want to sing loudly while driving down the Mount. Although they've toned down their music over the past few years, NFG shows us that it's ok to feel emotional without being the typical "emo" person.

The signature vocals of Jordan Pundik bring us back to the best of classic rock with their song "On My Mind" which makes it one of the best songs ever created by NFG. It's safe to say that now that Blink 182 has gone on their hiatus that New Found Glory is now on top of this

whole pop-punk scene. Their beats and vocals are defiantly reflecting a "new-found" band within themselves. *Coming Home*, which was produced by the ever-famous Thom Panuzio, who has also recorded with artists such as Ozzy Osbourne, Tom Petty, Bob Dylan, and Bruce Springsteen, clearly shows the levels of maturity that NFG have gained over time. Be sure to catch them the next time they come to town. (Let's hope they'll be at the 13th Annual Vans Warped Tour, summer of 2007.)



**ABOUT RELATIONSHIPS:** *Coming Home* was released Sept. 19, featuring songs such as, "It's Not Your Fault," "Too Good to Be," and "Love & Pain".

## SOME TIPS FOR THANKSGIVING

### Do..

... plan something special for thanksgiving, and don't forget to be thankful for all that you have received and to take an optimistic point of view this season.

... wear the cute turtleneck that you've been saving for the fall season.

... take your vitamins, it's flu season, so you need all the extra help you can get.

... have a nice hot mug of coca with marshmallows

... go out and buy yourself a nice pair of boots.

... donate to a charity and give something back to the community.

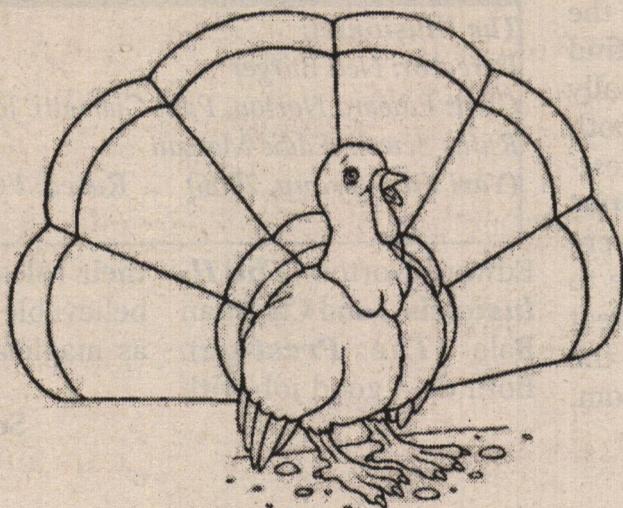
... go shopping after THANKSGIVING and get a head start on the christmas list.

### Don't...

... wear the hideous sweater that you've had in the back of your closet for years.

... wear the mini and tank anymore, I know it's So. Cal and we don't have seasons, but let's pretend that we do have seasonal taste.

... over do it, at the dinner table this thanksgiving, two helpings of stuffing is enough.



## Behind the Scenes: The Similarity of Most Movies...Cont. From pg. 7

to be the best at what they do. Both movies have beautiful, young up-and-coming starlets – Jessica Biel and Scarlett Johansson. Surprisingly, Jessica Biel was the better of the two (extra points for her European accent), although Scarlett received more publicity because of her recent crowning as Sexiest Woman Alive by *Esquire Magazine*. *The Prestige* differs in having one additional big actor, Hugh Jackman,

who plays a magician who is Christian Bale's nemesis. He is disappointing, however, in that he feels out of place in the movie.

*The Prestige* is gloomy and dark, while *The Illusionist* has a lighter and more romantic feel. Both stories are intriguing and use illusion and tricks throughout the complicated storylines, but the plot in *The Illusionist* is tighter and constructed

better. This may be due to the complexity of the plot in *The Prestige*, which makes it more difficult for you to guess what the ending will be. This reviewer can't figure out which one to recommend to you – I guess it depends on your taste. Most audiences will probably agree: because they are so similar and neither movie stands out, it is likely that they will harm rather than help each other at the box office.

## Country vs. City...Cont. from pg 2

was the old-fashioned store, or so my friend called it. It really reminded you of a 50s lifestyle. The accessories were from the 50s, as well as the background music. Even the owner seemed to be from that decade, with his cuffed jeans, and well kept sideburns. As soon as we walked in, there was a welcome.

I could already tell that the people in Virginia were a lot more aware of others because they were so personal, which is many times forgotten in Los Angeles because of technology. You've got the internet, the cell phones, and the ipods to live a completely different life. My friend kept telling me how well everyone knows each other in his town, this is something that I wish existed a lot more in Los Angeles, in terms of being humble, and caring, but there's so much more interest in who has more money, good cars, and huge houses with the latest design from a celebrities' home that is weekly a part of MTV.

For one thing, everything is about thirty minutes away from Suffolk. But even in the city, there's so much nature, and good-spirited individuals. We went to the mall in downtown and everything was a lot cheaper. The people weren't in a rush to go into the most expensive stores. Even the expensive stores had a different vibe to them when I stepped in. Everyone was so polite, and had not just looked for the people in the most expensive brands. The smiles, the hello's, and the goodbye's were always so pleasant to hear. Yes we get these in Los Angeles, but Virginians are a lot more personal, and there is never a time when a man doesn't open the door for you. I went into Victoria's Secret and had the most pleasant conversation with the cashier as I bought my lip gloss. I told

her I was from "L.A." She responded, "Oh, yeah, I really like it here, although I can see why maybe you'd like it, there's so much fashion there that girls seem to take part in all the time, I'm sure it's also beautiful there!" I was happy that what she spoke was truth, and told her that I wasn't one of those girls, but I did like fancy lip glosses. She immediately smiled and said, "in that case, you'll like it here!" And she was right, I did, as a matter of fact, I fell in love with Virginia!

The night I left, I inhaled as much as I could from Suffolk, and promised myself that I would come back. I had tears rolling down my face while on the way back to Los Angeles because I knew that I had found harmony while in Virginia, something that isn't as common in Los Angeles because life is so much faster. Everyone's always working in the city, looking for ways of any sort of advancement in terms of money, and careers.

The unity that Suffolk, Virginia, embodies is something that can never reach the amount of time families spend together in Los Angeles because there is always that constant reminder of the upcoming position with higher pay, and the newest brand at Nordstroms.

Remember that just because we live in a city doesn't mean that we can't reach the amount of humbleness a country offers. There is still a way of acknowledging the simple life in a world full of materialism, and wealth, which is why we have our families, and the option to travel to different parts of the world to learn from them. I for one can assure you that I have learned that life isn't all about the latest object, but about togetherness, even if it means staying at home without money, or a pair of Chanel glasses.

# The Oracle

December 12, 2006 Vol.15, Issue 4

## Poetry Lounge shares talent to family

African American Council of Women sponsored their annual Poetry Lounge entitled "The Soul Café" on Tuesday November 28, 2006. The admission ticket was a canned food item or a child's school supply item.

There was an ambiance of love for literature and each other, as you stepped inside the Lecture Hall that was beautifully decorated with roses and Christmas lights. It was truly a sight to be seen. The event was hosted by Erin Porter and Yhatina Macali. There were personal poems and favorite pieces preformed by members of AACW and audience members alike.

It was a very welcoming "open mic" atmosphere that wished everyone present the opportunity to speak their mind or get one of their pieces heard by the crowd. Along with poetry, short stories, jokes, and prayers were shared. Everyone that got up to spoke left us all with just a little bit more enlightenment than we had before. We experienced poems about social consciousness, racial pride, love and relationships, and stress at school. I was so very pleased with the wide variety of students that we had come to this event and on behalf of AACW I would like to thank all of you that came for the opportunity to share a piece of ourselves with you.



Photo and story by guest writer Erin Porter

**MOUNT FAMILY**- Mrs. Mandisa Turner-Watkins, Mr. Miguel Porter, and Mrs. Montey Ethal Porter enjoy the poetry

## Message from the President:

Dear Students,

On behalf of all of us at Mount St. Mary's College, I wish each of you and your families a joy-filled and blessed Christmas. This is a good time of year to give thanks for one another and for all those who help to make the Mount the special place it is for students. Please drive safely during the holidays and enjoy the break! I am grateful for the gift that you are to the Mount.

Blessings on each of you,  
Jacqueline Powers Doud  
President

## Inside

Page 2- Hip-hop  
-Note from the editor

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-Senior Reflection  
-Advice from a Senior

Page 4- Ask Athena  
-Gift guide

## Take these holiday travel tips before you go

Now that the Fall Semester is almost over and a long, well-deserved Winter Break is upon us, I have gathered a few tips for those traveling this winter.

### WEAR PROPER CLOTHING

Not only are coats, scarves, arm warmers and leggings fun and stylish, they're also essential for keeping warm during time of high winds and low temperatures.

### CHECK WEATHER

#### REPORTS

Wherever you plan to travel, remember to check their local weather. While it's always important to know what kind of weather is going on at your destination, it's also important to know the kind of weather you will encounter while getting there. Low visibility or dangerously high winds are factors in travel.

#### INFORM YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS

Don't forget to let others know where you will be heading and your expected arrival. In case an emergency occurs, they are able to notify the proper authorities if you

are late.

#### PACK ACCORDINGLY

Even if you're traveling around Southern California, don't forget to pack extra warm clothing. In addition, though you should always carry around a mobile phone for emergencies, walkie-talkies are another way to communicate should you not get service.

Other essential supplies include: tire-chains, spare batteries, flash lights, spare water and food, spare blankets, maps, and a first aid kit. You also might want to get a cell phone charger that plugs into your car. It helps

keep your phone alive on long drives.

#### CHECK YOUR CAR

In addition to receiving regular maintenance to your vehicle, have the radiator system serviced, or check the antifreeze level yourself with an antifreeze tester. Add antifreeze, as needed. If possible, replace windshield-wiper fluid with a wintertime mixture. Also, replace any worn tires, and check the air pressure in the tires. Lastly, if you'll be around snow, keep the gas tank near full to help avoid ice in the tank and fuel lines.

#### FOR MORE TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS, VISIT THESE SITES:

- Center for Disease Control and Prevention (Caution during Extreme Cold Weather)  
<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/disasters/winter/guide.asp>
- American Red Cross (Safe Winter Travel)  
<http://www.redcross.org/news/hs/holidaysafety/021126wintersafety.html>
- The Weather Channel (To check local weather)  
<http://www.weather.com>

Have a fun, restful and safe Winter Break!!

# Talib Kweli embodies Love through Hip-Hop

**B**rilliance in motion. Strips of hope and beauty. Every

by PATRICIA OSORIO

Staff Writer

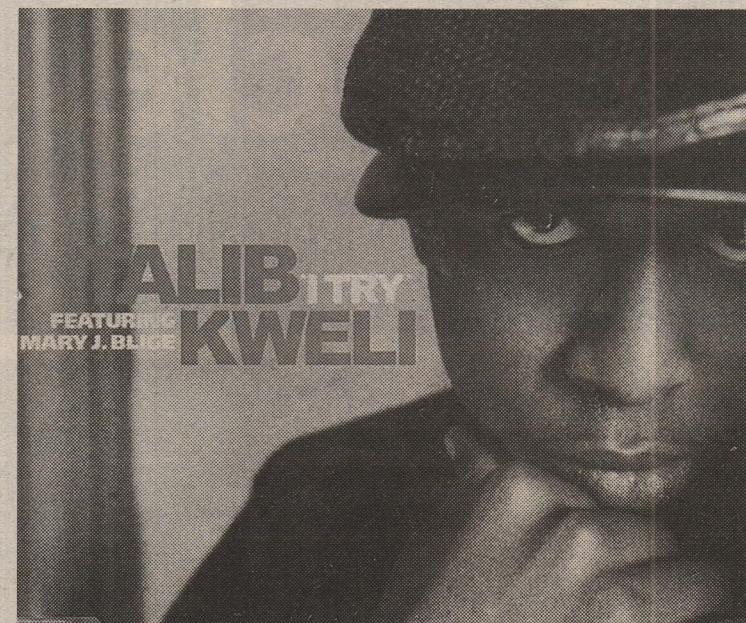
shape of each world-truth: reality, not myth! "Talib, Talib!!" echoes throughout the room in every color. His vibe circulates the House of Blues where all other creators are envisioning their thoughts on moral values. Every soul strives to have a rendezvous with the truth behind the chaos and to balance the manifestation of togetherness.

Talib Kweli flows with his special guest, and another sense of urban taste connects with our souls in the room. When he flows, his songs become daisies forming a rhythm, like exploration beneath the vibratos of space. This is what I imagined the show was going to be like when I thought of the ROCK THE BELLS HIP HOP

FESTIVAL I went to in August. I had the pleasure to enjoy his stage presence, along with many others in the hip-hop world. I felt so alive in spirit, and couldn't help but see his show at the House of Blues. I was going to be there. An urban magazine was my omen, when I read the advertisement for world peace and togetherness.

Let's go back to the twenty sixth of the past month and step into the enlightening drum circle. His tall, ebony figure touched a smooth surface of hope with his every flow. With his hand traveling in different directions, his emotions were searching a center. Then, it was known that hip-hop encountered an open universe where goodness and life lead to love. His lyrics all had a message stating that we don't need a miracle to change the world because what we need is movement.

The stage shook harder each time he rapped. His



He made sense, especially because his rap became wings to allow freedom of speech and action.

stage presence brightened the House of Blues

As soon as he finished his last line, the audience greeted one another with smiles and hello's. We had bonded. Cheering continued outside of the House of Blues. As we all walked to our cars, *Love Language* lyrics played in my mind. I realized that life was a circle, and I smiled to myself when I realized that I had seen him live. I felt free, thanks to hip-hop.

All individuals have their own interpretations of hip-hop, either negative or positive. I will say that it is a conscious culture that strives for wisdom, love, beauty, and appreciation. The foundation of life is in music. Let's never forget that.

And if YOU have yet to feel the vibe that the hip-hop lifestyle has to offer or the flow of a hip-hop artist, lend your ears to the beats, poetry, and the flow the HIP-HOP WORLD gives birth to.

more than other times I'd attended. He made sense, especially because his rap became wings to allow freedom of speech and action. It especially echoed when Planet Asia and four other hip-hop artists joined the stage. The audience couldn't help but root and sing along. All hands were up: L's for love were up when he sang *Love Language*. He was done, or so we thought, but he came back out unexpectedly and continued his flow.

faculty advisor.

Next year, we hope to bring you the scoop again. *The Oracle* will also be renovated. So, be prepared for a new look and design!

As you read this, you might be wondering why on earth we made another issue of *The Oracle* before finals. This is because Athena (Yes, there is a real Athena on campus) convinced me that we needed one for Christmas. And as a team, everyone pulled through. There had to be one more issue to commemorate the hard work and dedication of the December graduates.

Thank you to Jacqueline Powers Doud for the Christmas message and Professor Yazejian and Professor Brosamer for the words of wisdom.

We are half-way into the academic year and 2006 is almost done. This semester, the staff writers and editors made four monthly issues and made the deadlines thanks to our editors and

And so, as Tiny Tim observed, God bless us, every one!

-Charles Dickens



## The Oracle

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#### Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at oracle@msmc.la.edu. The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## Note from the Editor

## ENGLISH AND BIOLOGY PROFESSOR'S IMPART WORDS OF WISDOM

**I**t has been often and rightly said that virtue is the only true nobility. Noble bloodlines are no longer valued much, especially in America, but many now take as much pride in professional achievement and affluence as medieval dukes did in their ancestry. Success, whether earned through hard work or in-

herited by sheer luck, is a good thing, but without virtue it is empty and ultimately profitless. Since "you can't take it with you," material wealth stands as a challenge to those who possess it - take this, we are told, and do some good with it. As a graduating senior, you have a double potential. Success may indeed come

your way, but in turn more will be expected of you. You must employ your professional, financial, moral, and spiritual resources to the common good, and THIS will be your legacy, this you CAN take with you. Do good work, help those who need it, and inspire others to do the same. In so doing, you will plant

seeds of virtue that will outlast you, and show the next generation what it means to be noble.

- Matthew  
Brosamer Ph.D.  
Professor of English

true capacity unless you test the limits of your talents. Everything in the world that has been accomplished was once the brainchild of a single person.

- Bruce  
Yazejian, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor of Biology

**B**elieve in your own abilities—they are virtually limitless. You cannot know your

*Congratulations to all December Graduates!*

## Senior Reflection

BY KELLI WOOD



**O**riginally, the reason I wanted to attend the Mount was because I was told that I could wear my pajamas to class. The great view and location near the beach didn't hurt either.

Almost four years later, I'm glad I decided on the Mount, no matter what the reason. Yes, the casual dress in class and the fabulous location have been perks that I've appreciated during my stay, but I am even more appreciative of the woman I've become because of my attendance here. The small class sizes have always been great, as I've had real, personal feedback throughout the years from teachers who have come to know me. It's this sort of personal attention that has helped me to excel in my area of study.

I think in a different way than we would have if we had attended a co-ed school. I have become a strong and independent thinker, which I attribute to the discussions that I have had in classes full of women. Such classes really gave me a different perception of the world around me.

Although I am very excited to be done with school, I will definitely miss it. The interesting things I learned everyday in class and the stimulating discussions and debates are things that I am sad to leave behind.

Attending a college of mostly women, we come to

## Attending College for the Sake of My Family

BY CLAUDIA M. SANCHEZ

**G**rowing up a middle child in a house with five sisters, three older and two younger, and parents who barely had a third grade education, I thought I would have learned enough to not make too many mistakes. My two older sisters, not having had much guidance in the education system but later understanding the value of it, enforced the idea of attending college. My sister Sandy, the third child, was guided and determined to attend a four year college and become successful. She attended Woodbury University, a Co-ed private school. By the time I was finishing my last year of high school, she was finishing her junior year of college. All three of my older sisters had been questioning my college of choice. All I could think of was: "I need to get into any college and quick." I didn't care which college, as long as it got my sisters off my back and onto the next sibling. I was accepted into the Mount and all the stress was released, or so I thought.

Once I was accepted, I did the bare minimum and got by, but it wasn't enough. A call from the dean and a good scare later, I worked a little harder, just enough to keep the dean off my

back. But then I got sick with cancer.

It's funny how my sisters and the dean could not reach me and help me to become not only a better student but

and plan out which direction I wanted my life to turn. I look back now and realize that as much as I appreciate my sisters and the dean for trying to direct my life,

no one could get my life on track. Unfortunately I wasted a part of my life neglecting my studies. When I went into remission I had

planned to dedicate myself to school and work hard; I didn't realize it would be so hard.

The best advice I could give anyone attending college is: it is hard work, but all you have to do is attend each class, take notes, participate and do the assigned work. It took me a while to understand these rules, but once I did, it made the whole college experience a lot easier. I decided to work with the system and not against it. I was blessed; it wasn't too late for me. No matter what year you're in, it's not too late to work with the system. Don't wait until it's too late and you're thinking about your death-bed.



**The best advice I could give anyone attending college is: it is hard work, but all you have to do is attend each class, take notes, participate and do the assigned work.**

person as well, but as soon as death was around the corner my butt was kicked into gear. I started to think

# ASK ATHENA

Dear Athena,

How do I tell a complete stranger (a boy on campus) that I like him?

- Liking a Stranger

Dear Liking a Stranger,

Well first off, you need to have some sort of contact with the person. Not that creepy I'm stalking you, kind of contact (you know the kind where you follow him around until-you-work-up-the-nerve-to-talk-to-him).

My suggestion is the cafeteria! Everyone is in there at one point. Now this doesn't mean sit at a table all day until he comes in, but if you should "bump" into him at the cafeteria, give him a really friendly smile! ☺

After a few encounters over various places, not just limited to the cafeteria, ask him out! It's the 21st Century, and frankly regardless of that: Men are chickens! It could be that he totally digs you, but he's too afraid to do anything, and afraid of rejection. So, take the pressure off him and make the first move! It can be as simple as "Hi, I was wondering if you'd like to get cof-



fee sometime this week...." You can include your number (if you're scared to close the deal!), or make definite plans for a "casual coffee date". Either way you go, my advice is to be direct (not the scary pushy direct...), Just tell him you're into him! The worst thing that could happen is you find out that a) He has a girlfriend or b) He's not interested. At least then you'll stop obsessing and daydreaming "what-if" scenarios in class.

Good Luck!

-Athena

# Athena's Guide for the Holiday's

-Take the time to enjoy the company of everyone special to you.

-The holiday's are a time to be happy and stress free, so if someone gives you a hard time at the store... be patient and at the end of it all, wish them "Happy Holidays!" (Remember, don't let negative energy get passed on to you, create your own positive buffer)

-Don't take the holiday's too seriously, it's a time to be happy so laugh and smile often.

-Use this much needed time-off to de-stress after finals, and veg out and watch the old school christmas movies (like "Rudolph, the Red Nosed Reindeer")

-Being consistent with my advice last issue, No third helpings!! Just two whopping plates is enough.

-....And lastly, be safe during the holidays, avoid compromising situations, always have a designated driver, and don't speed around chrismas time, just take it slow and easy.

Happy Holiday's!

# Gift-Giving Guide: For the Shopper in you

	MEN		WOMEN		CHILDREN	
Ultimate Gift	Foosball table \$2000		Tiffany and Co. letters necklace \$1950		Sony Play station 3 \$500-600	
Practical Gift	A shaving kit (not drugstore bought) \$50		Roadside safety kit for Gals \$50.00		Nintendo DS \$150	
Budget Gift	300 piece poker chip set \$20 - 100		Spa Gift Certificate \$50-\$120		Disney Mobile Cell Phone \$19.99 and up	

# The Oracle

January 31, 2007 Vol.15, Issue 5

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- Sawtelle is swell

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## Letting stress work for you is a challenge

*Studies show that cortisol, the stress-related hormone, sharpens mind*

**W**e all experience stress, especially if you are a college student working two jobs or just

by STEPHANIE SANDOVAL

Staff Writer

a freshmen getting accustomed to taking 18 units. It affects those who care to have a successful future. As average Americans, we always want more then what we have, and we take on a lot of responsibilities in order to achieve it. We all want the "American Dream" and accomplishing it, takes a lot of work. The amount of work we succumb to daily usually leads to stressful and overwhelming situations that we wish we could avoid. Although in the end, we are grateful for those moments, because of the gratifying gifts they bring to us.

Now there is another reason you should welcome stressful incidents; it helps your health. But before you begin to submerge yourself into mountains of school work, realize that only a

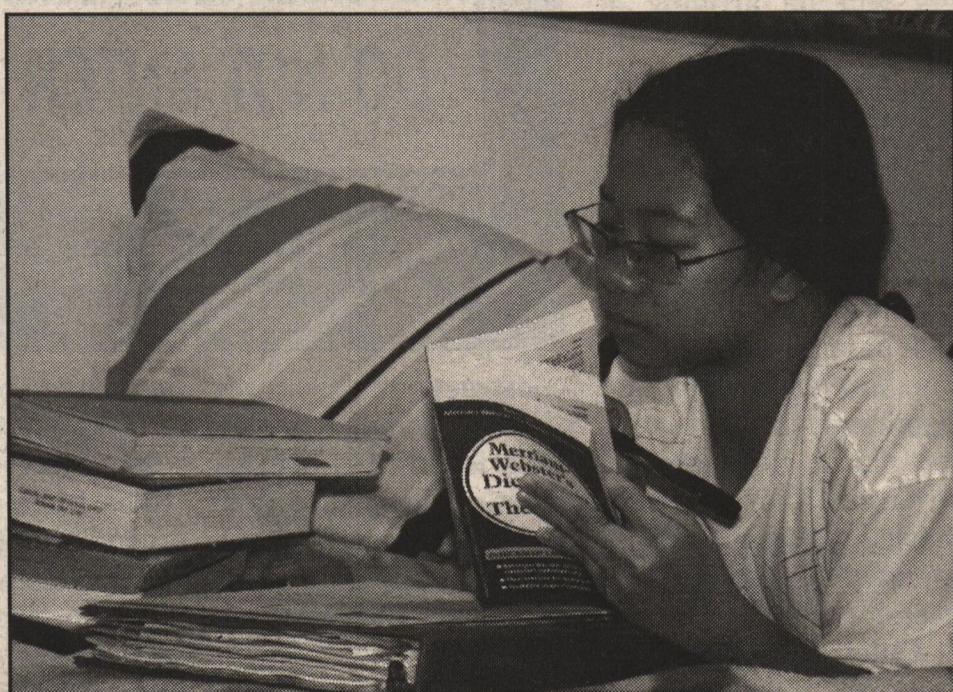
little bit of stress is good for you.

According to Jane Weaver, Health Editor for Msnbc.com, when your body senses a large wave of stress coming towards you, your brain begins to pump cortisol, adrenaline, and norepinephrine into your body, chemicals that stimulate the body causing your heart to beat faster and your blood pressure to increase. This results in a sharper mind and quicker body.

Good news for young women, researchers have found that a moderate amount of stress prevents breast cancer by reducing the amount of estrogen in your body.

Also, experts from Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Baltimore, discovered that women who were pregnant and had high amounts of the stress hormone cortisol had children who were developmentally ahead, compared to children who had mothers that only produced low amounts of cortisol in their system.

Many of you might say, "But what about all those studies that discovered that stress leads to depression, heart disease, ex-



haustion, and high blood pressure?" Well this is all true, but the key to avoiding these serious symptoms is by controlling your stress, says Weaver. Like everything in life, too much of something is not good, but too little of something is not good either. A balance has to be maintained.

Stress is necessary to a point, because it moves you to do things. Developmental psychologist at Johns Hopkins, Janet DiPietro supports the notion that some stress is essential to live a responsible lifestyle. "Think

about your daily life?—when do you get things done? When you have a deadline, when you have to perform, you want some stress to help you do your best."

You may ask yourself: "Do I suffer from too much stress? How do I know what is the right amount of stress?" Unfortunately there isn't a ruler that measures stress, and even if there was, stress can sometimes be uncontrollable. According to Weaver, you can know when you are suffering from too much

See Page 2

## Faculty Q. & A.: Dr. Eric Stemp

We recently sat down for an interview with Dr. Eric Stemp, a chemistry professor at the

by ADRIANA FRAUSTO

Staff Writer

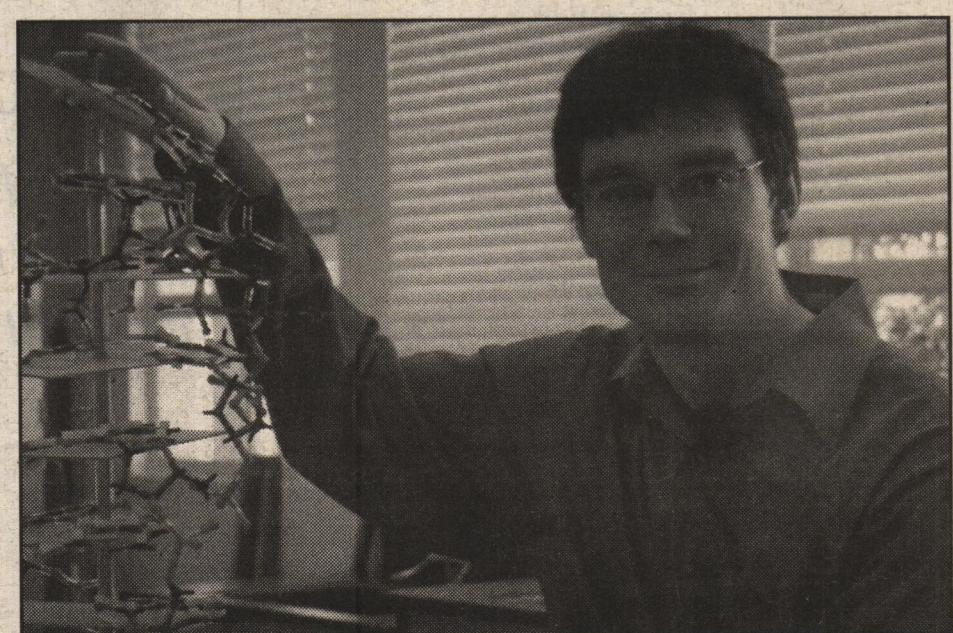
Mount. In an aside he candidly revealed that he once had dreams to become a journalist. "I loved it [journalism] and wrote for the paper for four years when I was in high school. I was a reporter my freshman year and the last three years of high school, I was editor-in-chief," he said.

Adriana: What changed your mind?

**Dr. Stemp:** I went to a journalist camp my senior year and when I got there I thought the kids were pretty obnoxious. (Laughs) That is when I decided I did not want to become a journalist. The kids were arrogant and they just seemed too self centered. I was intimidated by them.

A: What happened then?

**Dr. S:** Well, my brother Bruce majored in English and he went on to become an English teacher. He got a job that did not pay very well though. When my mom found out that I didn't want to become a journalist she



told me jokingly, 'Well, just don't become a bum like your brother. Do something where you can support yourself.'

A: Did you like Biology and Chemistry in high school, or did

you find out you had a passion for it when you started college?

**Dr. S.:** "In high school I did

See Page 8

## Noise drives students crazy!

Many of you may have noticed there have been strange noises coming from Brady Hall recently. Loud booms, creaks, and strange voices have been heard across the circle. It is apparent to all that Mount Saint Mary's has been invaded, and the enemy is wielding hammers.

According to a flyer handed out by Residence Life, "Construction workers will be arriving at 7:30am and will be working from 8am to 5pm, Monday-Friday."

There has not been a single morning since I moved in that the construction began at 8:00am. The sounds of jack hammers, tile breaking, workers voices, and hammers have become my alarm clock around seven am. They have even started on their work before seven am on multiple occasions.

Quiet hours are from 10:00pm to 8:00 am, yet the construction begins at 7:00am. How is this fair?

Mount students pay to live in the dorms, and we are now uncomfortable living in our own rooms. We can't even play loud music to drown out the thundering sounds of the

construction. Money is lost every time their concentration in class is effected. Sleep is essential for good health and it has been proven that if you get inadequate sleep your



construction.

Complaining to the RA's is fruitless because most of them are in our same situation. They live on our same floors and experience the same horrible situations.

Residents in particular pay for every moment of sleep they loose due to the

grades can be affected.

There have been court cases where the judge rules for a slum lord to spend a night in one of their infested residences. If this occurred at MSMC maybe the construction would begin when it was supposed too.

## Controlling Stress... Cont. from Pg. 1

stress, when you are feeling the following: mental fogginess, frequent colds, increased sensitivity to aches and pains; these are all indications that you have a weak immune system.

For those who suffer from too much stress, you may want to consider the advice of Howard D. Hill, columnist, president and CEO of Associates in Education in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He recommends the following:

Take one day at a time.

Every night before bed, think of one thing for which you are grateful; proclaim it.

The important thing to remember when faced with overwhelming stress is to sit back and breathe, and take a break from whatever is frustrating you. Take a walk, listen to your favorite song, watch your favorite television show, and just shut off for a while from the world of deadlines, tests, professors, bosses, and parents.

### Some Signs of Too Much Stress

Mental fogginess,  
Frequent colds,  
Increased sensitivity to aches and pain,  
Panic attacks,  
Lack of time and energy to be human,  
Frustration

## The Oracle Staff

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Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at [oracle@msmc.la.edu](mailto:oracle@msmc.la.edu). The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## Letter to the Editor: *Being charged \$25 for my disability*

On September 20th, at around 8:00am my asthma attack started out like the thousands of others I have had throughout my life. However, within 5 minutes I knew that this attack would be different and my rescue inhaler could not save me this time.

Since I was off campus, I weighed my options in my head. I could endure another emergency room visit, or I could try to make it to campus and use my heavy-duty asthma medicine that I keep in my room (called a nebulizer.) As I frantically drove back to campus, the last thing on my mind was finding parking near my room in the Rossiter Residence Hall. However, as I arrived, I quickly realized that there was no parking. Because of the distance, parking in the structure was not an option for me, parking there would have meant my death. So, I used my best judgment at the time and parked

where there was room--in the upper parking lot in an undesignated area.

Even though it was not technically a parking spot, I feel strongly that in life-and-death situations exceptions to the rules apply! I gasped for air and frantically hurried to my room. I returned a couple hours later, as soon as I was not in imminent danger, and found a parking ticket on my car for \$25.00. I did not get upset because I knew that there was no way for the parking attendant to know about my medical emergency. Later, I petitioned my ticket giving a detailed description of my emergency. It was denied!!! The only reason given was "your vehicle was parked in an undesignated area."

I have been wronged. Mount St. Mary College prides itself on diversity but apparently no pride is shown toward students with disabilities.

# Little Tokyo Too Far? Discover Sawtelle Blvd.

**S**o do you free time, say a Thursday or Friday night? While

by PAULA GAETOS

Photography Editor

you could venture to Westwood for the umpteenth time, for a taste of something refreshingly different, make a trip further down the 405 South and land on Sawtelle Boulevard.

This boulevard is West Los Angeles' own piece of Japanese America that's much closer than downtown's Little Tokyo.

This area is a three-block stretch between Olympic Boulevard and Missouri Avenue lined with authentic, locally-owned, Japanese restaurants, karaoke lounges, bars, and stores. If you're looking for a great sit-down meal (and aren't much in a hurry), scout for crowds. You can often find a great dish at **Hurry Curry of Tokyo**.

You can order according to your spice tolerance (Mild, Medium, Hot) and the prices ranges from \$7-\$8.50 per dinner entrée. If curry isn't your thing, Sawtelle has ramen (noodle soups), sushi (duh), shabu shabu (cook your meal in a very hot broth), and pubs (serving tapas-style foods). Whatever suits your taste, there are plenty of options on Sawtelle Boulevard.

After a hearty meal, you can walk off the calories by browsing through the small shops.

**Giant Robot** is always a great starter. Giant Robot first began as a magazine, but expanded with art galleries featuring local contemporary artists and two stores. You can find all things Japanese pop culture and kitsch imaginable here—from wind up robots to anime figurines.

For some Tokyo-inspired street clothes, head over

to **Happy Six**. The small boutique carries various brands, including tokidoki and Sanrio featuring Hello Kitty, as well as their own brand. All their clothing is made in house and hand embellished.

For some warm drinks, there are many places to get tea, coffee and the ever-famous boba (tapioca pearl tea).

A recommendation would be **Volcano**

**Tea**, next door to Happy Six. If you've never tried hot boba, you definitely should try in this tea house on Sawtelle.

At the end of the night, before you head back up to the Mount or back to your hometown, stop by one of the supermarkets to stock up on some yummy Japanese snacks. They come in real handy when regular chips and dip don't cut it anymore.

\* *Proposals for a kidney-transplant market will create inequalities*

I have had a bad right kidney ever since I can remember.

by KARLA RAMIREZ

Staff Writer

And the thought occurred to me, as morbidly as it may sound, that what if one day (God forbid) that I need to have a kidney transplant? What would be my chances of receiving one if it were imperative that I do so?

The only option that would cure a failing kidney is to get a new one. Of course, an individual can live with one kidney, but they would require debilitating dialysis for the rest of their life.

Organ transplanting is a very controversial issue, and it only survives with the kind heartedness of individuals.

How many of us have the donor sticker on our driver's license? In any case, a small population ever agrees to be donors. According to the 2006 November edition of the Economist, 4,039 people died in America during 2005 waiting for a kidney transplant. The article continues stating that **the waiting list period to receive a kidney is increasing by a rate of 7% a year in the United States.**

These statistics sound alarming, not only because individuals are dying even before they receive a hope of being kidney transplant recipients, but also the organ black market is flourishing as a

result.

This endangers the lives of those seeking desperate help through the black market: sellers and recipients. The international black market exploits the poor in developing countries who are in search of an income. In many poverty stricken areas of the world, the poor sometimes can only recourse is in selling their organ(s) to

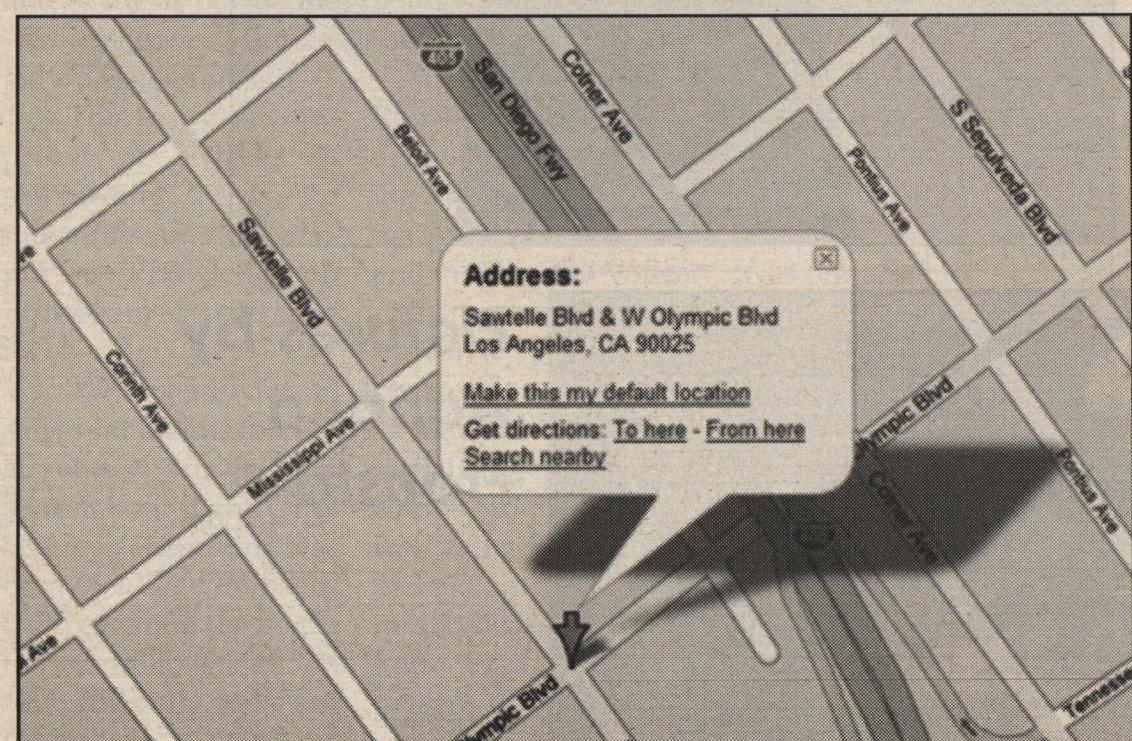
[S]ignificant consideration needs to be taken in the medical field in regards to proposing a regulated kidney transplant market

affluent foreigners. In India, a kidney costs from around \$800 to \$1,000 dollars. For a poor family in India, this amount may go along way.

Unfortunately, under these unregulated circumstances, the sellers pay the highest price with their life. Clandestine kidney recipients often contract hepatitis or AIDS, while the sellers get little or no medical follow-up. As Amy Friedman, Assistant Professor of Transplant Surgery at Yale Medical School, points out for NPR that significant consideration needs to be taken in the medical field in regards to proposing a regulated kidney transplant market.

First, even though an open market for kidneys allows the poor to receive an income and the necessary medical attention,

# One Kidney is Never Enough...



Hurry Curry  
<http://www.hurrycurryoftokyo.com>  
2131 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310 473 1640

Happy Six  
<http://www.happysix.co>

2115 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310 479 5363

Giant Robot  
<http://www.giantrobot.com>  
2015 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310 478 1819

Volcano Tea  
2111 Sawtelle Blvd.  
Los Angeles, CA 90025  
310 445 5326

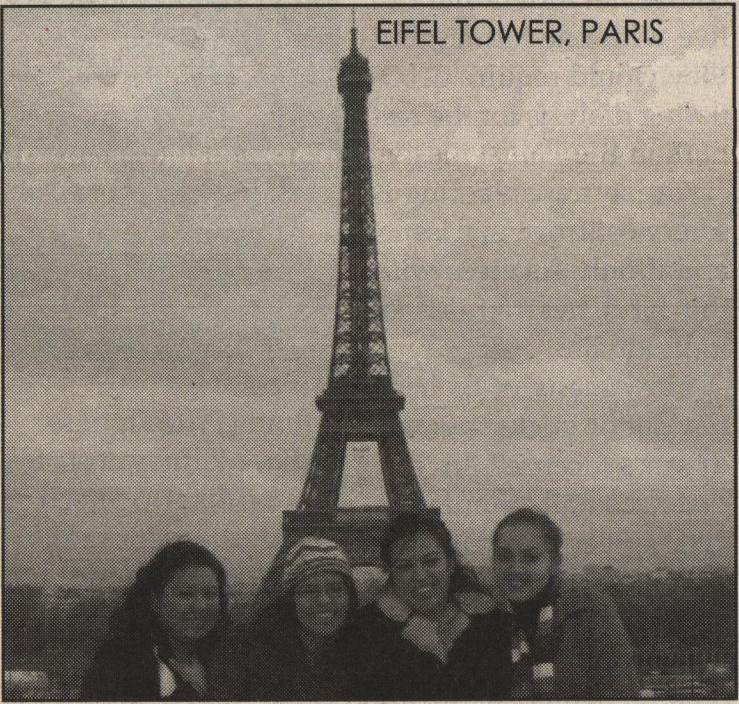
See Page 8

TRIP TO EUROPE: \$3,000, ROLLING SUITCASE: 20 EUROS,

VATICAN CITY



EIFEL TOWER, PARIS



BIG BEN, LONDON



COLOSSEUM, ROME



***Pictures by  
Adriana  
Frausto***

# BEING DUBBED "GELATO QUEEN" : PRICELESS



## New Years in Europe: Arts in Europe Trip

**Story by Michelle Del Rosario**

**A**s last semester simmered down and all Christmas shopping came to a halt, 27 students, from MSMC took part in an unforgettable study visit.

Over winter break we travelled to London, Paris, Florence, Sienna, and Rome as part of the "Arts in Europe" course, led by Sister Teresita.

The trip was comprised of 2-weeks of sightseeing, visiting museums, and enhancing our knowledge on European Art and History.

We prepared ourselves for an unexpected adventure during their sixteen hour flight. Once arriving, everything was on a Go! Go! Go! basis, from catching the metro to trying to arrive on time for daily museum tours.

During the trip, it was tough not only adjusting to the 9 hour time difference and crowded metro systems, but the increase of cost of living as well.

But climbing to the top of the Eiffel tower, seeing the notorious

Mona Lisa, and trying Italian Gelato for the first time was well worth every Pound and Euro we paid.

There was a lot of preparation involved in preparing for the trip. However, no reading or classroom lectures can compare to actually being in the places themselves.

"I had so much fun in Rome! We walked everywhere, but exploring the ruins, seeing the many Bernini fountains, and visiting the Vatican with my friends, made up for it" says Ashley Brown.

Beyond hearing and visualizing historical accounts firsthand, there was value in being immersed in distinct culture. Where else can you find pizza and pasta present on every street corner, and the availability of buying a beer with your Big Mac.

Susan Stetson was surprised by what she learned on the trip. "We learned about their culture, the different kinds of foods, and traditions during the holidays," she said. "New Years

Eve in London was also extremely exciting and was followed by a parade the next day. And as for Florence, "when you walk down the flea markets, you breathe in the smell of leather, I loved it!"

Adriana Marroquin's most memorable experience was seeing Michelangelo's sculpture *David* in Florence, Italy. "It was such a marvelous masterpiece. The detail, height, and anatomy of the statue was remarkable."

Overall, the trip provided our group an outstanding overview and in-depth info on European Arts and History. "I enjoyed the beauty of the historical buildings. It is a once in a life time experience and is worthwhile. I would highly recommend going on the future trip" says Daniela Perez.

If you are interested in experiencing this for yourself, the next trip is scheduled for winter 2008. Please see Sister Teresita Espinosa, Instructor in Music, who teaches the course.

### Course Description for INT 95/195 (3.0 units)

The course begins with four preparation seminars in the Fall semester and culminates with travel to major European capitals of art, theatre, and music, between Fall and Spring semester. This study-travel course takes participants to some of the world's finest museums, historical landmarks, castles, cathedrals, and places made famous by renowned artists, authors, and musicians. The cost this year was \$3,000, which included all travel transportation, hotel accommodations, entrance to museums, guided tours, daily breakfast, four special dinners, and most mandatory tips.

-Sr. Teresita Espinosa



# Ask ATHENA: On Parking, Time- Management & Myspace

Dear Athena,

I always start the new semester really revamped up and ready to go, but by the time mid-terms come around, I'm burn out and don't really care anymore. How can I change this?

Burnt-Out

Dear Burnt-Out,

First of all make sure that you are not taking on too many activities on at once. The fastest way to burn yourself out is when you spread yourself too thin. My advice is to plan a schedule of sorts. It can either be a daily, weekly, or a monthly schedule. It needs to be something where you can see everything laid out in black and white. Once you have that set you'll be able to allocate your time more efficiently. It's always important that you make time in your schedule for yourself as well. If you are not devoting any time to yourself, you'll be burnt out in no time.

Happy planning.

\*

Dear Athena,

Parking this semester has been horrible! I get to the Mount twenty minutes before my class begins and I'm always late because I spend all that time looking for a place to park on campus. In the end, I'm left parking all the way down on Chalon Drive. Do you have any ideas on how to deal?

Thanks,  
Fed-Up

Dear Fed-Up,

Yes, it is true parking this semester is at its worst. I suggest doing something about the parking situation yourself. You can always sign up for a carpool buddy, which will not only help with finding parking at the mount, but also help in those long traffic jams. Talk to your ASB class senator and suggest that they hold a

town hall meeting. Suggest some ways that will help alleviate the parking crisis (another parking structure perhaps). Lastly, you can decide to live on campus. If all else fails you can always try getting to school earlier. Unfortunately, is not the best option if you had planned your classes around starting later in the day.

Wishing you more parking spaces.

\*

Dear Athena,

My friend and I have been involved in an organization on campus for quite some time, but now we don't feel as motivated to accomplish the goals the organization has set for us. What do you recommend that we do to boost our motivation within the organization, in other words how can I build up my morale?

Sincerely,

Unmotivated

Dear Unmotivated,

Building up morale is always a tough one. My advice is for you to focus your attention back to what initially attracted you to that organization. Try to remember what drew you into the organization, and then find out where it went. Did the organization turn out to be something that didn't fit the picture you had envisioned it to be? If it didn't, what can you do to make it become more of what you expected it to be? Also are the goals that the organization planned for you and your friend reasonable from your point of view?

Do you think you can attain them? Lastly, when it comes down to it, if you don't feel the same way about the organization as you used to, take a break from it. Use the time to rediscover the things that are important to you and what you are passionate about.

\*

Dear Athena,

I spend too much time on my



space. Do you have any advice on how I can wean myself off?

From,

Myspace addict

Dear Myspace addict,

Myspace... What can I say about myspace? Well myspace is a paradox! Myspace is a fabulous way to keep in contact with friends and family, a great place to network, and express yourself. However, it can be very time-consuming and may take the place of physical interaction with friends and family, causing us instead to rely on virtual interaction. The best way to wean yourself off myspace is to slowly reduce the amount of time you spend on it. Like all addictions, you can't just go cold turkey! Give yourself a time limit each day, then after that reduce it down even further until you reach the stage where you are controlling the amount of time you spend on myspace, and myspace isn't controlling you. Lastly, as with all addictions, programs don't work if you cheat! So, don't ask your friend to log onto your myspace and read your messages, comments and friend requests!

Good luck!

\*

Dear Athena,

Lately I've been finding myself short on money. Do you have any ideas on where I can find an easy or flexible job?

Sincerely Broke

Dear Broke,

First things first, it doesn't matter how much money you make if you can't hold on to it! Create a spending log, and record your spending for a week. From there you will be able to create a budget that suites your spending habits. Now for the job part: There are lots of places to find jobs: newspapers, career-builder.com, and most importantly THE MOUNT CAREER NETWORK! Jobs usually vary by levels of skills and in the end you will have to find one that best suites you. I recommend childcare, the hours are usually flexible and the job is not too stressful.

Wishing you a more lucrative future,  
Athena

\*

Dear Athena,

MSMC has hardly any guys. Where do you suggest meeting them?

From,  
Guyless

Dear Guyless,

Yes, the male species is indeed a rare find at the Mount; they rarely venture so high into the mountains. As a result, one must go to where they are. Where are they? Down the hill! You need to step out of the Mount and head on over to Westwood! Hang out at a coffee shop and watch the male species thrive. If that fails you can always head on over to UCLA, go the library and "study"... puns intended!

Happy Hunting!  
Athena

# Zenon Culverhouse: Resident Philosopher

Quick, can you name one of the Mount's most valuable assets for *by ILEANA PORTILLO*

*Staff Writer*  
knowledge?

His name is Zenon Culverhouse, and he is our very own analytical skills, philosophy, and critical thinking tutor on campus.

He came to the Mount three years ago and since then has taught philosophy classes and tutored students intent on understanding life's most puzzling questions.

I recently spoke with Zenon about his personal philosophical views and about what he does when he's not trying to teach us that if you try to fail, and

succeed, you have really succeeded at failing.

Zenon's has a classic taste in philosophers. He enjoys the musings of Socrates, Aristotle, and Plato. The modern philosophers he reads about make it their mission to analyze the masters. Gregory Vlastos and Donald Davidson are two contemporary philosophers that make it to Zenon's reading list.

Many do not know that Zenon changed his major many times as an undergraduate, and that he started out as an art major. His favorite artists include Van Gogh and Michelangelo; Zenon highly recommends the books written by Irving Stone about these artists.

## Valentine's Day Trends

What comes to mind when the season of love arrives once again?

One may choose gifts as an expression of how much love one feels for another. Common gifts include flowers, chocolate and jewelry. When one thinks of those gifts, it is usually the woman that is on the receiving end; however the trends are starting to change.

One out of three women

now sends flowers to their boyfriends to express their love. It might be due to the modern movement of society. Women are no longer sitting around and hoping that Mr. Right will come along, but actively seeking him.

As the old saying goes: "Diamonds are a girl's best friend", but "Flowers are everyone's friend!"

- EZRA AZZOPARDI



### Master of Arts in Bioethics

Bioethics is an interdisciplinary field that responds to questions raised by technological advances in the health sciences. It addresses issues concerning human nature and the value of human life. Our graduate program in bioethics will enable you to:

- Reflect systematically on contemporary issues in bioethics and health care, such as biotechnology, genetics, and medical ethics
- Learn and think from an interdisciplinary perspective
- Critically analyze bioethical topics through the interplay of moral philosophy, moral theology, and medical practice

The Masters program will serve as an excellent complement to studies in medicine, nursing, and the health sciences. It provides preparation for those interested in pursuing a Ph.D. at another institution.

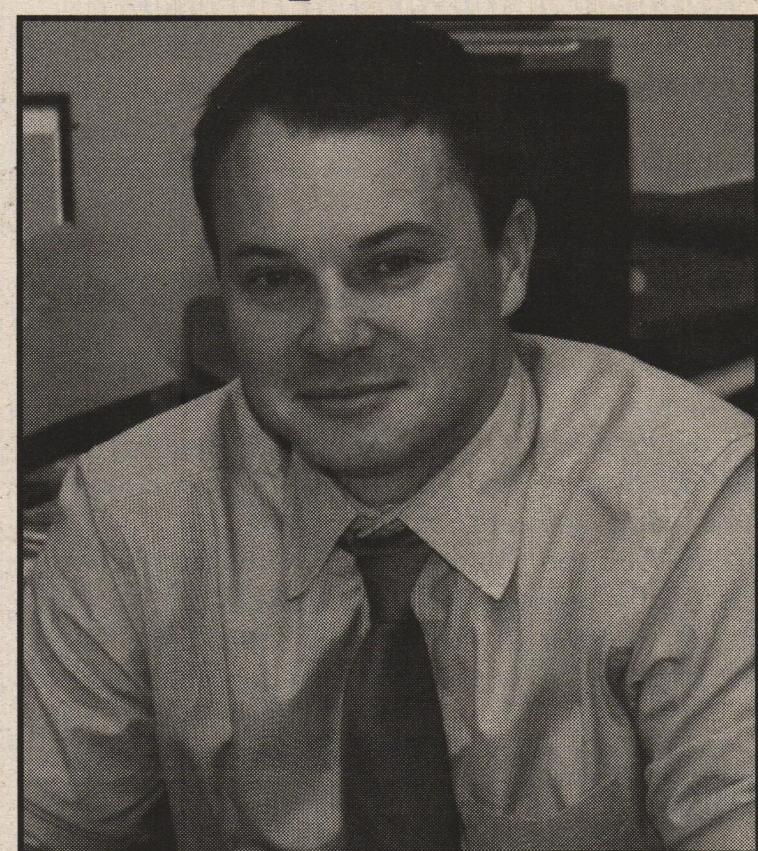
*Scholarship funds are available to full-time and part-time students.*

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Another interesting factoid about our resident philosopher is that he is an avid cyclist. He once rode his bike from his home in Venice to Claremont, a city about fifty miles away and an hour's drive on a good day.

"I rode first to Union Station from Venice. Eventually I figured out how to ride all the way from Venice to Claremont. Then I tried to ride back on the same day. I made it, but it hurt." Talk about feeling the burn!

Zenon would like to impart this final kernel of knowledge about philosophy, "A lot of work is necessary to find [the truth], for, as Oscar Wilde said, "the truth is rarely



pure and never simple."

Zenon is currently working on his Ph.D. dis-

sertation on top of his du-

ties here at the Mount.

## Popping the Athenian Bubble: Fighting apathy towards U.S. Politics

January 23, 2007, was the night of President Bush's

*by GERRI KRIEGER*

*Opinions Editor*

seventh State of the Union address. In previous years I have counted down the hours until the speech, taken a sip of Red Bull every time Bush said a colloquialism, and stay up late watching political pundits debate everything from Bush's body language to how attainable his promises are. This year, I could care less.

I am not alone in my apathy. At the time the State of the Union broadcasted, I walked by the Brady 1st lounge only to find students watching an old Spongebob Squarepants episode, which isn't surprising since political discourse at MSMC (outside of class, at least) generally consists of hackneyed "Bush is a monkey" jokes. This campus wide apathy extends beyond presidential speeches and to the en-

tire political process and the world at large—the people I see on campus with newspapers are reading either the comics page or Joel Stein op-eds. The front page news gets used for nothing more than to

We allow our locality, living on the top of a mountain and away from the city, to justify our indifference to world events.

wipe up spilled coffee or hash brown grease. We are self-important people living in pursuit of our self-interests: going to class, to work, doing the myriad of things demanded of us as college students. We allow our locality, liv-

ing on the top of a mountain and away from the city, to justify our indifference to world events. We need to pop this Athenian Bubble and read the news.

The reasons for this apathy can be easily dissected by anyone over the age of twelve. We live in a country that turns a blind eye to the manipulation by its elected leaders. For example, people allow themselves to feel detached by the war because it is a "War IN Iraq"—far away from our homes, our lives, and our thoughts. Congratulations to the Bush Administration, who succeeded in distracting its citizens from reality with the careful placement of a preposition. Other issues, from the fact that the public's voice, in the form of grassroots letters to Congress to Security Councils, tends to be ignored by Washington to the hint that President Bush was elected primarily on the legacy of his father and not by merit, would dispassion any

## Faculty Interview: Dr. Eric Stemp

### "Building a Stairway to Excellence"

enjoy chemistry and did very well at it. I once got a chemist-of-the-year award, but I wasn't a chem geek. My dream was actually to become the center fielder for the Dodgers. I always looked up to Maury Wills. He was one of the first black baseball players, and he came after the era of Jackie Robinson. Maury was totally fearless and he was the first to steal 100 bases in a season.

A: So I take it you enjoy playing baseball?

**Dr. S:** Yes, My senior year of high school I was ranked with the third highest batting average in the history of my school. Now, I attended Hinkley High School in Aurora, Colorado. Colorado baseball players are not the same as Los Angeles baseball players though. If I would of played against an L.A. team I might of had a harder time.

A: What kind of hobbies do you have?

**Dr. S:** I coach my sons baseball team. I have two sons, Aaron is 8 and he enjoys playing baseball. It's nice to coach my sons team because I'm around women all day and it's nice to get away from all that estrogen (laughs). Jared, my five year old son, is autistic. He doesn't really enjoy baseball but I

would like to introduce him to baseball at some point in time. He enjoys a lot of movement like swinging around and jumping on the trampoline. He likes it when I spin him around.

A: Do you have anymore hobbies that you enjoy?

**Dr. S:** Other than coaching baseball I also play softball, play tennis and I like to dance. Occasionally I'll go out to goth clubs and have funky finger nails and wear my spiky bracelet.

A: (laughs) Really?

**Dr. S:** Yes. (Smiles) I also enjoy going to Art galleries. I was an military brat and when my dad was stationed in Italy, he played in national games in the Davis cup team. He was at that level and he was that short of the pro-level. I played tennis all four years of high school. One thing that I learned by playing tennis was perserverence.. I wanted to take Jeff Peterman's spot.

A: So who was Jeff Peterman?

**Dr. S:** The rules were that in order to take a person's position you had to challenge them. I challenged Jeff and I beat him, but the coach told me that Jeff was still the best player of the team and that I had to

beat him again. I had to challenge him three times to convince the coach to let me have his spot. That is how I became the number one singles player of the team.

A: So what do you do on your free time?

**Dr. S:** Most of my free time is spent with my boys. We go and visit the Natural History museum, the zoo and the aquarium in Long beach. Parents of the kids that I coach baseball have me do science demos for there birthday parties.

A: So in high school were you Mr. Popular?

**Dr. S:** I was very shy growing up, but baseball really made me be more outgoing. My freshman year of high school I wore glasses and was still the shy boy. My sophomore year I got contacts. I was a jock but I never hung out with the jocks. I had a girlfriend who was what you would call in those days a "freak." She was very anti-authorative. I was moderately popular but I always defended the non popular kids. I was always different and I was happy to be different. I have had a kidney problem since I was young and I had to take medicine for it. The medicine wore down my joints and muscles. I had to wear big pants to prevent

me from pulling my quadriceps muscles.

A: Kind of like bell bottoms?

**Dr. S:** Yeah, except that they were big all the way from the thighs. My best friend would always make jokes about it. He would call them twin skirts. (Laughs)

A: so can you tell me about your career as a Biology Teacher at MSMC?

**Dr. S:** I've been teaching since the Fall of 1996. I've been teaching here for 10 years. From '93- '96 I attended Cal-Tech in Pasadena. I did my post-doctoral work there. Cal-Tech is known as the top 5 research places in the world and it is very competitive. I got my Ph.D at Northwestern University in Chicago and I got my undergraduate degree at the University of Denver.

I did some teaching as a T.A. in grad school. I also got a teaching award for teaching physical chemistry, which is very math-oriented. I enjoyed helping the other students and I was very interactive with them. I wasn't like the other T.A.'s who never cared to help out a student.

A: Why did you decide to teach at the Mount?

**Dr. S:** I went to a small school. When I was an undergrad, my school only had 3,500 students. I

liked the fact that I got to meet with my professors one on one. We were so close at my school, we were like a little family. My junior year, my mom got lung cancer and my teachers cared a lot about me. They would send me cards telling me to hang in there. I missed school for a couple of weeks and they understood and helped me catch up.

When in a big college like UCLA the professors would have just told me tough luck and good luck in catching up. I did not know what to expect when I got to the Mount. I did notice one thing though. When I first walked into the classroom at MSMC, I met many students who didn't have much money, but worked hard to get where they wanted.

If you challenge [students] and give them the tools they need to succeed, then they will go for that goal. I try to break down each concept step by step. If I make it simpler then it helps a lot. Where at UCLA they hold the bar way up high and expect them to understand the concept right away without taking baby-steps and that can be overwhelming for the student. I still have the bar raised, but I allow them to reach the top little by little. I call it, building a stairway to excellence.

## Kidney-Transplant...

Cont. from Pg. 3

inequalities will form within the market. The scenario persists that there will be populations of poor people with one kidney, while the rich will have two. Dr. Friedman adds that the poorer the seller, the less he or she will be paid although multiple risks correspond to both kidney sellers.

Take for instance, a poor farmer in India who has a less life expectancy. This person will be paid less for his or her kidney, compared

to a person in a better economic condition. It will take a long time before any decisive act will be made toward regulating black market kidney transplants because of its ethical debate. Unfortunately, the demand for kidney transplants will grow, while the supply shortens and the world's poor and rich alike lack the knowledge of the deadly consequences of proceeding with a clandestine procedure.

sleep deprived and procrastinating college student.

I am aware, however, that my reasons for apathy are not valid. Just because I disagree with nearly everything on Bush's political agenda does not mean that I should adhere to the ostrich philosophy. Denying the existence of the news will not make the news any less real

or important. I joined Dr. O'Brien's News Media class for this reason, which centers on news analysis. Part of the homework is to actually read the news. I might not care about the news right now, but at least I'll know what's going on. I challenge every MSMC student to spend at least five minutes a day reading the news, whether it

be in print form or in an internet or television media. I promise that I will do everything I can to pop the Athenian Bubble and make myself a more aware and socially conscious person. And if all fails and you see me in the cafe reading an *Us Weekly* instead of a respectable news journal, throw a *Newsweek* at my head.

# The Oracle

February 28, 2007 Vol.15, Issue 6

## Weather

MSMC  
Archives

Feb 28 - 59°/42°- Partly cloudy

March 1- 63°/44°-Sunny

March 2- 69°/50°-Sunny

March 3- 73°/53°-Partly cloudy

March 4 - 77°/51°- Partly cloudy

weather.com

### Campus Exchange:

## Where is the Commuter's Lounge?

As the Mount community came back to school after the holiday break, we

by MICHELLE MISKANIC

Correspondent

were greeted with many changes to our campus, including construction on the Mary Chapel and most noticeably, to the cafeteria. One such change that has impacted me was the loss of the commuter center. As commuters, we used to have a spot to call our own, but now it's been taken over by the Food Services office.

We feel lost in the shuffle. We don't have a set place where we can go and talk to other people who are also daily commuters. Many commuters other than me have also expressed disdain for our displacement. Jasmin Honrado, a third year commuter



**COMMUTER'S AREA:** Michelle Miskanic and Adriana Frausto are two commuters, beating traffic to get to the Mount.

says that she does not like the new arrangements because "there is no more commuter lounge to relax and watch TV! The only thing to do is sit around the noisy cafe; and I need my peace and quiet!"

While we don't mind sharing

our space in the cafeteria, and we are all friends with one another in class and out, we do miss having a spot to call our own. Residents have their dorms to retreat to when the noise, and the hustle and bustle get to be too much, but what's a com-

muter to do? Some of the commuters go to Starbucks down the hill, others go to the computer labs, and still others, prefer to drive home between classes. Are the tight quarters too much for the residents as well?

## A Day in the life of a Commuter

by ADRIANA FRAUSTO

Staff Writer

I have been a commuter since freshman year. I commute from Lawndale which is 2 miles away from Redondo beach. It is 18 miles away. It might not seem like 18 miles is a long way but with traffic it's dreadful! I'll admit that it does feel good to be able to go home at the

end of the day though. Coming to school, it will usually take me an hour to get here. On a good day it will take 45 min. Everyone knows how the 405 is and going 10 mi/hr. or less on the freeway sucks. Once my freshman year, it took my sister and I 2 hrs. to get home because it was drizzling or something ridiculous like that. Not to mention that gas is so expensive, car-

pooling would be a good idea. I carpooled with my sister for two years but then our schedules became totally different that it did not make sense to commute anymore. by the end of the day, as a commuter, you are so burnt out that when you get home, you do not even feel like doing your homework.

## Driving Tips:

1. Driving requires full mental concentration. Eliminating one distraction, such as the turning off the radio will help.
2. Infants are eight times more distracting than adults. Noisy kids in the back seat may also create distractions.
3. Even talking to the passenger next to you may cause an accident.
4. Try not to dig into your bags, multi-task with electronics, or take your eyes off the road.
5. Find your directions earlier.

## Opinions

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The more educated, the more marriageable?...Page 3

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Museums vs. Musicals ...Page 4-5

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The sushi revolution...Page 7  
Spring Break...Page 7

# The Problem with Idealizing the Fifties

Marilyn Monroe and James Dean have

by NATALIE GUTIERREZ

Staff Writer

stood the test of time. Why are we so fascinated by this epoch? We watch the movies and we listen to the music. We romanticize the fifties. We long for that seemingly simplistic, carefree time. We listen to the music of the fifties and are amazed by the brilliance of it.

With the emergence of Rock and Roll, and artists like Elvis Presley, Chuck Berry, Johnny Cash and Jerry Lee Lewis, it is not surprising that we wish to travel back in time. We love the drive-in movies, the soda pop, the ten cent apple pies, and the kids riding bicycles in the streets without the threat of being harassed or attacked.

We watch the movies and there seemed to be

something in the air that promised safety, a thing that is now undoubtedly nonexistent. But we romanticize the fifties, be-

"city set on a hill".

We are perhaps, as people of the twenty-first century, so dissatisfied with our own circum-

[I]f this period was indeed a time of melodic perfection, then Mr. Allen Ginsberg would have never felt the need to write *Howl*. Betty Friedman would have had no reason to write *The Feminine Mystique*. The Montgomery Bus Boycott would never have taken place...

cause we're taught to. We've watched Grease, I Love Lucy, and Happy Days countless times. We're fed this notion that this decade was some kind of ideal, prosperous time that will never come again. We are bombarded with the idea that the United States of America was in its prime, that it was the quintessential version of the

stances, that we accept this image, allowing it to serve as our only understanding of this crucial time.

However true this may be, we must not fail to think that if this period was indeed a time of melodic perfection, then Mr. Allen Ginsberg would have never felt the need to write *Howl*. Betty Friedman would have

had no reason to write *The Feminine Mystique*. The Montgomery Bus Boycott would never have taken place; thus never giving rise to the civil rights movement, making Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. a name that would be unfamiliar to most Americans. For how could racial segregation exist in a time of such bliss? Why is then, that the sixties was an explosion of rebelliousness and nonconformity? If people of the fifties were so satisfied with their lives why did so many of them choose to abandon everything

they knew to become hippies? Why would the women's liberation movement and the gay rights movement have had any need to exist? It is necessary to ask these questions when thoughts of poodle skirts, greased hair and "Rockin' Robin" run around in our minds, hypnotizing us into thinking that America in

the fifties was heaven on earth. It is best that we dispel our tendencies to idealize the fifties. It is perhaps, even better that we denounce a time in our country's history that made it impossible for African Americans to vote, that allowed the murderers of young Emmett Till to be acquitted, that forced women to stay home to cook and clean and fall into deep depressions - a decade that allowed the assassination of Dr. King, that allowed Joseph McCarthy to intimidate, and the Jim Crow laws to oppress.

We have a time in our past that was so detrimental and obstructive, and yet we permit ourselves to think such shallow thoughts about it, dismissing the struggle, dismissing the angst and the yearning for equality - thus conveying the problem with idealizing the fifties.

## The Oracle

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#### Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at [oracle@msmc.la.edu](mailto:oracle@msmc.la.edu). The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## Letter from the Editor: Lenten Reflections

**S**am, the server at In-n-Out, noticed my rosary dangling on my rearview mirror and quizzically asked, "Are you Catholic?"

Suddenly it hit me - I was ordering a cheeseburger on the first Friday of Lent.

"Oh so you're one of those Catholics" he teased me. What did that mean, I asked myself. Why was not eating meat on Fridays important? Wasn't the inner faith enough? I tried to persuade myself that the practice was just cultural.

"Do you know why we don't eat meat?" Sam asked. I had forgotten its significance. "It's to fast because Jesus fasted in the desert for 40 days and uh, 39 nights." I imagined the sand, the emptiness, the dryness, the barrenness.

Although, I won't get into the history or the theological meaning of

fasting, this is one thing I realized: Jesus wandered around in the desert for 40 days. The last thing on his mind was food, however. I could imagine him confused and wondering what his next step would be, and so had taken some time away from the buzz of society, parents, and friends. When he returned home, he started his mission.

The Israelites after being freed from slavery, also wandered around in the desert for 40 days, before finding the Promised Land. Sometimes, we have to get lost in order to find the way. Being lost in the desert reflects the ordeal of finding oneself. The desert may also be simply the interim period of our lives before we start on our individual mission, whatever we hope to accomplish.

I ended up getting the grilled cheese.

# Trends show links between education, marriage

**F**emale college graduates, which all of us at the Mount are aiming to become, are more

by STEPHANIE SANDOVAL

Staff Writer

likely to marry than those who are not. Those who desire to become a wife and a successful career woman have better chances of obtaining it, by simply earning a college degree.

The days in which a woman waited hopelessly for a rich and (hopefully) educated man to sweep her off her feet, are gone. Now, women with degrees and who are extremely successful are marrying men who are just as intelligent and career driven as them. Ladies, we are no longer waiting, we are choosing. "Now, the realm of dating and picking your future spouse is done on an equal plain", says Kate Zernike from the New York Times.

According to Zernike, women who have a higher education are less likely to get a divorce, less likely to be widowed and less likely to be alone.

Compared to women with a lack of education, marriage is much more favored by highly educated females. The Census Bureau's June 2006 Current Population Survey by Steve M. Mar-

tin, a sociologist at the University of Maryland stated the following: "Among women ages 25-34, 59% of college graduates are married, compared with 51

they would be entering into a situation in which there are more expenses and less time for leisure, since their chances of marrying someone "well-off" is

spouse about whether he paid the electric bill? You may say that this is a small argument that anybody can handle, but you would be surprised to know how small inconveniences can turn into Hurricane disasters.

Plus, those who are highly educated are more likely to understand the term "equality". Some men think they live in Ancient Rome, when they expect the dinner to be placed, the house to be cleaned, or the kids to be dressed. Men who receive an adequate education are more likely to comprehend the fact that women are not made for their convenience. Therefore, marrying a man with a degree makes a marriage a pleasant decision, rather than a regrettable one.

If you want a "happy" marriage, graduate and marry someone who graduated as well. According to the Marriage Project, "the percentage of spouses who rate their marriage as 'very happy' has dropped among those without a college education, while it has risen or held steady among those better educated."

Graduating from college does not only lead to a career, but also to a stable and promising marriage.

**"Among women ages 25-34, 59 percent of college graduates are married, compared with 51 percent of non-college graduates."**

-Steve M. Martin, sociologist,  
University of Maryland.

percent of non-college graduates. The same is true at older age groups: the difference is 75 percent to 62 percent for those ages 35-44, and 50 percent to 41 percent among those 65 and older."

Although, it is true that educated women are postponing marriage, statistically we only wait two years after graduation, says Zernike.

Women who are less educated and have poorer paying jobs are less likely to become financially stable overnight, even if they work hard at it. Women who are under these circumstances are less likely to plunge into marriage because if they do,

slim.

Highly educated women who have a well paying job do not have to worry as much, because they are likely to marry a financially stable man. When two people with practically the same educational background and income, unite in marriage, their earnings double. The probability of their marriage remaining strong is higher than that of lower-class couples. The main reason being that money makes things a lot easier, even marriage, says Zernike. You may argue that money complicates things as well, and that may be true, but is it not easier to live without arguing with your

## OPINION: The drilling ensues, sleep is all more precious

**S**ince the beginning of 'myself' often fighting the

by CASSANDRA KRIEGER

Staff Writer

urge to shout curses down my hall, first floor Brady, and I am often seen holding up my middle finger to the door that leads to the stair case that descends to the Brady ground floor. Ironic, since I go to a Catholic school, and of course I attempt to scan the halls for roaming nuns but at eight in the morning when construction wakes me, 'Meeting early, almost my ability to control

my inner swearing sailor is limited.

Construction for a new Student Lounge on the Brady ground floor has begun and the consequent noise and ruckus has seemed to get progressively worse each day.

The construction that is needed to execute these plans is excruciatingly annoying. The recent Town Hall Meeting addressing the construction called the noise, dust, fumes from trucks, and resulting sleep deprivation the 'price of "progress." To be fair I left the Town Hall Meeting early, almost exactly after that state-

ment. The "oh well" statement, the "too bad for you" statement, the "we know you are paying a lot of money for the room, and the quiet mountain environment but we want prettier space to entice new students" statement. I'm not sure the supporters of the construction know just how bad it is. Sometimes beds shake with the drilling, the noise level is so loud people shout to hear each other in rooms the size of closets, and the pulsating headaches that echo the beat of the drill have me addicted to Excedrin.

Maybe I shouldn't be so unfair, the gentle shaking of my bed is not so bad; in fact I would quite enjoy the sensation if it was not accompanied with the

thunderous sound of the drill. While I completely understand the time constraints that limit the Mount's ability to meet everyone's wishes in regard to construction, the idea of pacifying the students with promises of "progress" is insulting. The drilling is maddening; it disrupts patterns of sleep for many students who try to catch up on sleep between classes, and ultimately creates

problems for students attempting to cope with the stress of school and the exasperating irritation of continual construction.

There are numerous studies from the UCSD School of Medicine and the Veterans Affairs Healthcare System that show a correlation between sleep deprivation and the debilitation of brain activity, and I will say that there is a correlation between drilling and me screaming obscenities down my hall.

# Museum Review: The Getty Museum

## Where We Live: Photographs of America From the Berman collection

by ADRIANA FRAUSTO

Staff Writer

There was one photograph that really stood out for me. I am usually not very observant but when it came to this picture I noticed a lot of little things. The name of the photograph is called Child's bedroom. By Patterson. It was taken in New Jersey in 1971 and was printed on February 11, 1994. When I first looked at the picture I pictured it to be maybe an elderly person's room. This has a lot to do with culture because there is a lot of religion involved. Religion can be identified as someone's culture. This picture was black and white. There is a bed in the center and right above the bed, there is a 3-D picture of the Last

Supper. Then right in a different form of art below there is a picture of Jesus during his agony in the garden. Not only did we enjoy

Getty to Los Angeles is breathtaking. Not to mention that the garden is beautiful as well."



Then there is another picture a little bit above the agony in the garden and it is another picture of the Last Supper; but,

the amazing exhibits but the beauty of nature was very thrilling! Senior Elizabeth Aceves said, "The view from the

Angel said, "I would recommend this activity to a friend, not because I had no choice in attending, but because it allows

educated and ignorant people to become aware of their surroundings and not just pretend nothing is happening. With this exposure, I believe many, not all, prejudice views will eventually evaporate."

The Getty is located in Brentwood and it is really close to the school. I believe that the Transstop shuttle will transport you to and from the Getty if transportation is an issue. If you are able to drive yourself then just go down Sunset Blvd. And get on the 405 North. The exit that you will take is Getty Center Drive. Parking is \$8. You park your car and take a tram up to the museum.

## Hidden Gems in our Own Backyard: Norton Simon Museum

by MICHELLE MISKANIC

Correspondent

The Norton Simon Museum is located in the heart of Pasadena on Colorado Boulevard. Since 1922, it has housed hundreds of pieces of modern art. In 1973 it was renamed the "Pasadena Museum of Modern Art." But sadly, because of the high cost of construction, the museum closed after several years. When it reopened in 1975, the museum was renamed the Norton Simon Museum of Art at Pasadena. It was named after a wealthy businessman local to the Pasadena area who only began to collect art when he was in his forties. Today it holds one of the most impressive collections of art from the 14th to the 19th century. It has something for everyone, in par-

ticular, the sculpture gardens that are surrounding a pond in the back of the museum.

Some key elements not to be missed are the aforementioned sculptures and pond; and paintings by the likes of Gauguin, Monet, Renoir, van Gogh and Cezanne. Also very impressive are the sculptures by Rodin that are in the main gallery near the front door. There are also sculptures from India and works of art from Asia on the ground floor. The museum holds many remarkable, one of a kind pieces of art that are rarely found in museums, let alone a public non-profit one.

Location:  
411 W. Colorado Boulevard  
Pasadena, CA 91105-1825  
626.449.6840



Outdoors in the Norton Simon Museum in Pasadena

Photo by Peter

# Revisiting Oz: A review of "Wicked"

It's been a few months since I've read the novel, so I'm definitely coming into

by PAULA GAETOS

Photography Editor

watching the hit Broadway musical *Wicked* with a fresh mind. With songs such as "Defy Gravity" and "As Long as You're Mine" rivaling songs such as "Phantom of the Opera" from the *Phantom of the Opera* and "Sun and Moon" from *Miss Saigon*, it's been quite a long time since I've seen a show this refreshing and heartwarming.

The book itself, *Wicked: the Life and Times of the Wicked Witch of the West*, published in 1995, is a novel seriously examining the meaning of what it is to be good or evil through social, political and ethical

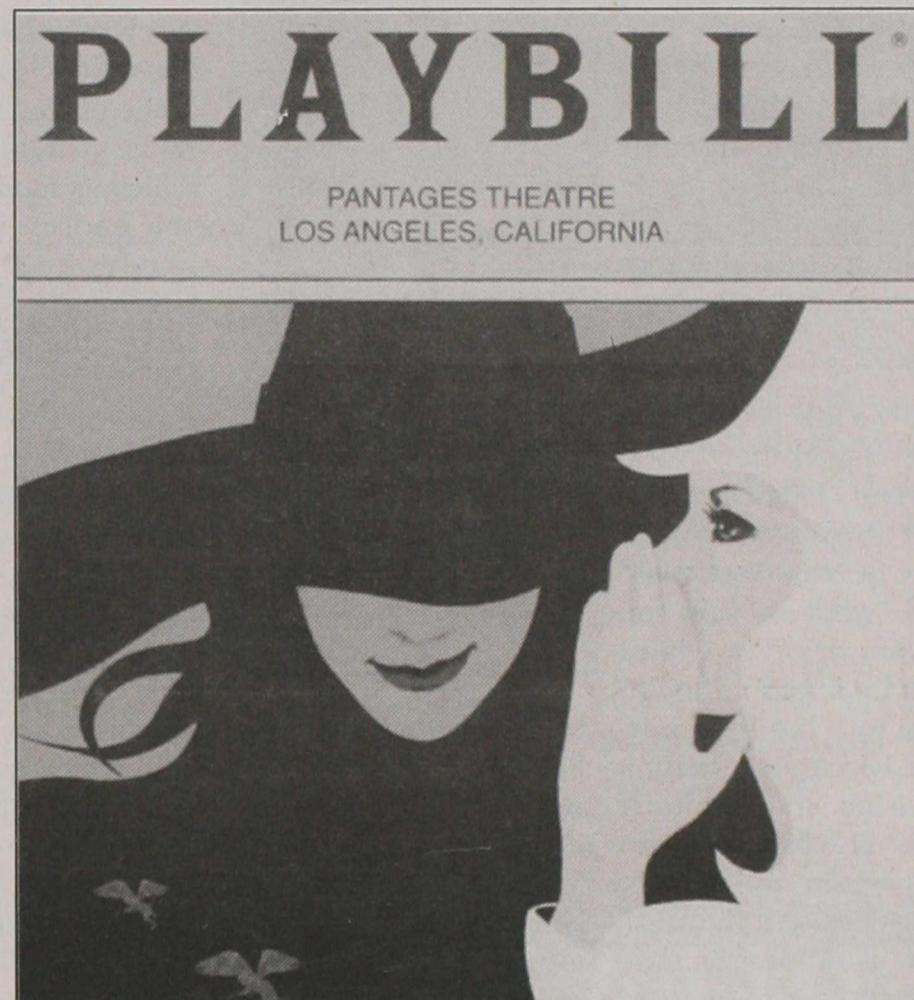
commentary. The novel is quite heavy reading and some commentary is more subtle than others. An example is Elphaba's (the Wicked Witch of the West) green skin and her close relationship with animals. These two aspects may connote the author's commentary on women being connected to nature and that because of our male-science driven society, this closeness with the Earth is viewed as lesser.

Not surprisingly, the two mediums, novel and musical, begin similarly and at a certain point deviate significantly. Without giving anything away, this namely occurs when Elphaba first meets the *Wizard of Oz* in the Emerald City. In essence, *Wicked*'s important and thoughtful commentary was

certainly best conveyed through written word and its emotions best conveyed through song and acting. I don't believe you can really appreciate either medium without experiencing both. What I loved most with my experience with *Wicked* the musical is how much it made me appreciate the human stories in the novel, especially the power and complications of friendships and any other relationship. It's been said before, but you certainly will

never look at the *Wizard of Oz* the same way again. Thank Goodness for that.

*Wicked* is currently playing at the Pantages Theater, 6233 Hollywood Blvd, Los Angeles, CA. For ticket information, please visit: [http://www.broadwayla.org/antages/box\\_office.asp](http://www.broadwayla.org/antages/box_office.asp) or <http://www.wickedthemusical.com/la/>



## VS. MUSICALS

### Musical Craze: *Grease* to *Ugly Betty*

Last year dancing was the craze that captured us all, this year however its musi-

by ELIZABETH BORER-NODOLF

Copy Editor

cals. A musical is a play or motion picture in which the story line is developed through the use of song and dance. The most memorable musical of all time is *Grease*. The love story of a young greaser Danny and the shy naïve Australian Sandy has taken a permanent spot in the hearts of everyone. Everyone knows the lyrics to at least one *Grease* song whether they would like to admit it or not at times. Recently producers, including the original writer of *Grease*, created a show ti-

tled *Grease: You're the one that I want!* Contestants perform their hearts out for a chance to play the lead roles of Danny and Sandy in the Broadway production of *Grease* set to come out later this year. Americans have been busy calling to cast their votes for who will win.

*Ugly Betty* even is buying into the latest hype with one of their characters acting out the first scene of an oldie but a goodie musical *Hairspray*. Justin, the young son of the show, did a lovely rendition of Good Morning Baltimore for a crowded subway train. *Hairspray* is the story about a young girl name Tracy Turnblad who is a teenager wanting to dance in the nineteen fifties. Her story of the girl with a big heart but with even bigger hair was

based on a 1988 movie written by John Waters. *Hairspray* however is based on the New York stage. However, *Wicked*, the story of the *Wizard of Oz* set long before Dorothy dropped in, is now at the Pantages Theatre in Hollywood. The musical was originally a best selling book is a large contributor towards the musical hype. In fact the sounds of the *Wicked* have even been heard coming from the residence halls lately. The movies *Rent* and *Dreamgirls*, which were released last year put this trend into motion. *Dreamgirls* has already received eight Academy Award nominations proving that this musical sensation that has hooked everyone is not some passing craze. Musicals have taken root and it is now up to you to sing along.



Peter Kwon

## TRAVEL:

## Going to New York

"YOU NEED TO GO TO NEW YORK!" This is a statement I've recently

by MICHELLE MISKANIC

Correspondent

been saying (actually commanding) to friends, peers, and complete strangers I've talked to since I arrived back to school from my first trip to the Big Apple.

I recently became a double major in art and English and I (along with other art majors from the Mount) was fortunately given the opportunity to attend an art conference that was held in New York City.

I know a few people who have visited New York; however, I had no idea what to expect. What I knew of New York came from what I saw on film/television or what I read in books. Though New York has been portrayed accurately in film, television, and literature, there is absolutely no comparison to actually being present in areas such as Times Square, Central Park, or my favorite New York area, Greenwich Village.

The Buildings are massive, cabs and town cars fill the streets as people walk along the sidewalks, and the theory of a New York minute really exists.

After admiring the snow that lay over the build-

**The Buildings are massive, cabs and town cars fill the streets as people walk along the sidewalks, and the theory of a New York minute really exists.**

ings and streets (I'm from Phoenix so watching snow was like watching man walk on the moon for the first time) my first New York stop was visiting the Metropolitan Museum of Art where I saw a beautiful collection of German Expressionism.

Unfortunately, The Met has too great of a collection to see in one day; nevertheless, art is essential in New York so museums (i.e. The Guggenheim and Cooper-Hewitt) and small galleries can be found all over the city as well as the sidewalks where artists sell their own work.

Another great quality of New York is the food! Some of the best restaurants in the city served delicious food at reasonable prices. Florent, a trendy diner located in Greenwich Village, served the most incredible veggie burgers and cheesecake. Serendipity, a patisserie popularized by the self titled film and frequent customer Andy Warhol, serves a delicious dessert called Frozen Hot Chocolate. This trip enabled me to be open to new types of food which was exemplified when I ate pierogies at Veselka, a Ukrainian diner located near NYU. I was obligated to eat the pizza which lived up to its reputation. Sorry meat lovers, no hot dogs for this vegetarian!



Staff writer, Kathleen Araiza, sophomore, stops for a pose behind Times Square.

A well known means of transportation in New York are the subways. Initially I was apprehensive about using the subways particularly because I could hear my father's voice in the back of my head warning me to stay away from...well...everyone.

However, I came to actually enjoy taking the subway. If you get off the wrong stop, who knows, you may end up in an area that will show you a part of New York you'd never seen or heard of before and spontaneity is what New York is all about.

## Guest Column: Life Outside the Mount

I have my B.A. and now I am ready to hit the world. Or am I?

by MARISA SMITH

Alumna Correspondent

While the clock ticks down to graduation for some students, others have already left for the workforce. I dream daily of being back in my comfortable niche at the Mount, a place, the only place, I ever felt comfortable being myself. The Mount did so much for me as a woman, a student, and a citizen of the world. But now what?

I have found a job as a grant writer while I wait to hear back from several graduate schools about my future as a masters of fine arts candidate, however I feel my situation to be very anti-climactic in nature.

Where was the fanfare, the parades, the congratulations from far and wide, and most importantly, the instant change one feels with a bachelor's degree? It never came.

There is no instant change that comes with a degree, one is not instantly smarter, wiser, kinder, or worldly; rather,

the change must come from within.

I cried last May when I

respects, try to recapture. However this is not what the Mount wants. I would

sors, and other close confidants at MSMC want us to mature and someday leave the comfort of our nests. This is what they have prepared us for: to leave the bubble of MSMC and be leaders in whatever we choose to pursue.

I feel well-prepared, thanks in large part to the Mount. Now, as a graduate, I feel extremely compelled to leave a positive impact on the world, in order to make those I left at the Mount proud of my future accomplishments, and know that they had a large part in shaping who I am.

**Where was the fanfare, the parades, the congratulations from far and wide, and most importantly, the instant change one feels with a bachelor's degree?**

left the Mount, knowing I had left a part of myself behind, a part that I will forever miss and in some

be foolish to believe they want us to stay forever.

Reminiscent of parents, our professors, advi-

## RESTAURANT REVIEW:

## The Sushi Revolution &amp; Geisha House

by ELIZABETH BORER-NODOLF

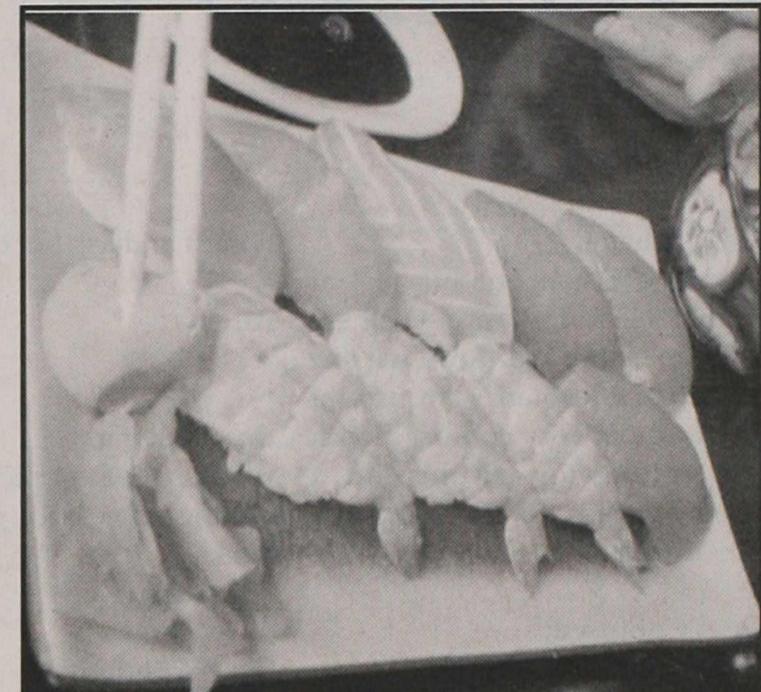
Copy Editor

Located off the third street promenade is a new restaurant called The Sushi Revolution. The restaurant focuses on incorporating traditional Japanese cuisine into today's technological world. What the restaurant lacks in decoration it makes up for when it comes to the food. The Sushi Revolution has a full menu of traditional hot and cold dishes. My top choice recommendation would be the Portobello mushroom tempura, their use of cream cheese to add that special something to the dish. What makes the

restaurant worth going to however is the magnetized track that runs around the length of the restaurant displaying their sushi menu in the form of actual dishes. You are allowed to take any of the dishes you would like from the track that runs tableside. It is a childhood fantasy come alive to be able to see the food before you choose it. Each dish on the track is priced according to the color of its plate. The prices range from \$1.95 to \$4.95 and its well worth it. Just be careful to keep track of how many plates you are grabbing!

With Hollywood being so close, it's a shame that we do not take more advantage of its touristy and movie star filled

charms. Recently some friends and I went to the Geisha House. According to its website the Geisha House is a Modern Japanese Restaurant, Sushi Bar and Sake Lounge that embraces the flavor of traditional Japan while catering to the hip, sophisticated clientele of Los Angeles. The atmosphere makes the restaurant. Simple decorations of floating candles, cut out stars lining the ceiling, mirrors on the walls reflect a sense of intimate friendliness in the dining experience. The food is reasonably priced and the blend of traditional and contemporary intrigues dinners. It is said that if you want a traditional California roll, you shouldn't dine at the Geisha House. With rolls like Heaven Chopped



toro, special tuna, spicy tuna and cucumber, and The Cowboy, Filet of beef, asparagus, scallion and cream cheese, you won't miss it! All of the sushi rolls range from nine to fourteen dollars. Each roll contains eight pieces but I recommend you get a couple rolls each to share amongst the table. They also serve a variety of hot dishes

## Spring Break for Cheap

\* Spring Vacation is March 12-16. (Finals are March 5-9). Do you know what you'll be doing during break?

by YAHTI MACALI

Managing Editor

Today is the perfect time to start planning for Spring Break and if you're anything like the average college student, especially the Mount college student, you're sadly strapped for cash. Regardless of your cash flow, if you're a tad bit crafty and a whole lot savvy, you can have balle-rific spring break on a broke-down budget. If

you decide to stay on campus there are plenty of free or affordable day trips that are in close proximity to The Mount. There are quite a few sites that can narrow down your search for free or cheap events.

One online site is <http://www.la.com/events>. Check out the top ten free events. This website has an extensive list of museums that offers free entrance for college students on selected days. For example the nearby Getty Museum has a "Fridays off the 405" event with live music, DJs, and a cash bar for the 21 and over crowd. <http://www.huntington.org/>.

Even if you're on the illustrious Metro bus,

you can still work it out with only \$3 day bus passes and get to Universal City Walk, with hundreds of shops, restaurants, and live performances (admission always free).

Or if you're feeling old-timey, you can venture to Old Town Pasadena. Check out the shops (there's a rather large Forever 21 and a quality Urban Outfitters), the world-acclaimed Pasadena Playhouse, or the Huntington Memorial Museum and Gardens, with spectacular sites and exotic plant life. <http://www.catalinaexpress.com/> for more information.

If you feel a little friskier, you can try a des-

## Plan Your Day

<http://www.la.com/events>

<http://www.huntington.org>

<http://www.catalinaexpress.com/>

<http://www.beachcalifornia.com/calevent.html>

<http://www.metro.net>

<http://www.theclubmix.com>

<http://collegiatecircuit.com>

tination day such as Catalina Island. Often there are specials for the spring season which include two for one day ferry trips visit <http://www.catalinaexpress.com/> for more information. <http://www.nia.com/calevent.html>, for a list of free events. You may want to try the infamous <http://theclubmix.com> or <http://collegiatecircuit.com/> for the nightlife and spring break events. Be creative and make it work. Whatever you eventually do, make sure you stay safe, have fun, and be good!

A few more useful sites see [www.metro.net](http://www.metro.net) for trip planning and <http://www.beachcalifornia.com/calevent.html>

# Ask ATHENA:

Dear Athena,  
I have a crush on this girl at school. How do I approach her? Is there a way that I can tell she might be a lesbian? I'm new at this and I'm very confused with my feelings toward this girl. I need your advice. Please help!  
-Confused

Dear Confused,  
I can see why this topic may come up at an all women's college. Lesbians tend to be very confident women, not usually timid or shy. Those two indicators are sometimes sure-fire clues. However because MSMC is different than most colleges (it being All-women), the majority of the women at MSMC are confident and not timid or shy. The best way to go about this is to be

honest and ask her out on a date.

Athena

Dear Athena,  
What is the best pick-up line for talking to a cute guy at Starbucks?  
-Wondering

Dear Wondering,

How about I like my coffee tall, dark and strong! Or if that's a little too farfetched for yourself try: May I offer to buy you a drink? Then lead him to a table and get to know him!

Dear Athena,



How do I manage my email and keep it from getting so much spam. Do you suggest multiple mailboxes?

-Mailboxes etc.

Dear Mailboxes etc.,

I recommended spam blockers for your mailbox. Multiple mail-

boxes are a good idea, however they can be very time consuming. I would keep it down to two different mail-boxes each with spam blockers, and anytime spam does get into the mailbox mark that email as spam.

Athena.

## Salaam Coleman Smith

Worried about finding a career after college? You're not alone. On Thursday, February 15, 2007, Salaam Coleman Smith, director of Style network and executive vice president for E! Entertainment, assured students that college was also a "confusing" time for her. Smith's degree in industrial engineering has taken her from an oil field wearing a hard hat in Bakersfield to managing Style, a cable television network in Los Angeles.

"Finish what you start and once that part is over you can then change directions and figure out your next step," and to "just stay on track," said Smith. In other words, aim simply for finishing college and not worrying about finding the perfect major.

Smith interspersed her PowerPoint presentation on Style network with her own experiences in

corporate America, such as selecting Style's three adjective motto.

"I like the way she was prepared and she knew her material. She had the visuals, and the power-point. She is a good spokesperson. For business majors, we need to know how to speak. Hopefully, one day I'll learn how to do that," said Jacque Duran.

Smith started at MTV and Nickelodeon, promoting her mathematical strengths, to stand out against creative people, such as former teachers or artists. "I just networked. I shadowed a lot of people," Smith said. After repeated resume attempts and rejections, Smith found a network. Smith named some qualities in women in leadership positions, such as "a strong sense of self," amidst other people who are not always looking out for your best self-interest. When asked by a



**BUSINESS SENSE:** Smith stayed afterwards to answer questions from students

student what she did with the issue of representing minorities in the media, Smith said, "I'm much more subtle with it. When I look at it at a 'do the right thing' standpoint, people tend to shut down." Instead, the network looks at demographics, and the targeted audiences. Smith gave the example:

"We have limited penetration with the southwestern part of the U.S. We need to have a Latino perspective."

She focused also on the constantly changing demands of the media, such as the new technology for streaming media on the Internet, podcasting.

Smith credited her success to both her mother,

father, and husband, her "Cerano de Bergerac." Her father's example of working hard and her mother's support in the process had helped her find the right career. "I like making decisions and I like leading and giving directions," Smith said.

MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

# The Oracle

May 1, 2007 Vol.15, Issue 6

## Weather

April 30 -73°/59°- Sunny

May 1- 70°/56°-Sunny

May 2- 67°/54°-Sunny

May 3- 65°/52°-Mostly sunny

May 4 - 63°/53°-Mostly sunny

weather.com

## Clothesline Project Heals Women

**H**ave you ever experienced something so traumatic that you re-

by FATIMA RAMIREZ

Correspondent

fused to share it with anyone else? You are not alone. So many women experience traumatic violence where they hold back from expressing their experience to others because they are afraid. Because of this, there have been several organizations that help women with such experiences to heal from their wounds, to start over, and to not fear. The Clothesline Project was an organization that was brought up by people who felt a need "to consciously develop a



Photo by Jenny Park

**MUSIC HEALS:** Pianist Kristine Ganibe, Music, and vocalist Marites "Tess" Narciso, Nursing, present songs for the Clothesline Project, where students were able to decorate t-shirts

program that would educate, break the silence and bear witness to one issue - violence against women."

A woman by the name of Rachel Carey- Harper was an

artist who had the initial idea of using T-Shirts to hang on the clothesline as a form to create an awareness for the public regarding this topic. It's an appropriate form of awareness because peo-

ple who see the T-shirts with the message on it to receive a visual and the women writing messages on the shirts serve as a tool to heal.

## Chatting with *The Closer's* Andy Sacks

by JENNY PARK

Editor-in-Chief

Making sure that each episode runs smoothly in a short amount of time may seem stressful. Andrew Sacks, however seems to be peacefully enjoying it all. In jeans and a baseball cap, Sacks manages the set on location at the Chalon campus like a camp counselor.

On March 27, *The Oracle* snagged a chance to interview Andrew Sacks, producer for the TV series, *The Closer*. The show has ranked #1 on TNT cable network. He handles multiple tasks from scouting locations (The Mount is the more expensive option versus filming in the studio), to managing the cast, wardrobe, set

Cont. on Page 8



Photo by Jenny Park

**THE CLOSER AT CHALON:** (L-R) Andy Sacks, Oscar-award winning producer, talks with Raymond Cruz and Michael Paul Chang, actors from *The Closer*.

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Platforms, Proud to Be an English Major...Page 6

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The contradictions of pornography...Page 7  
Ask Athena...Page 8

# Tuition Hike: Matching the School's Standards?

□ The college has raised tuition to \$24,550 for the 2007-2008 academic year. Tuition was \$20,000 three years ago.

by GERALYN KRIEGER

Opinions Editor

Mount St. Mary's College President Jacqueline Doud released the annual review of tuition and fees in March 2007, stating that the 5% increase in fees, an increase that has been steady over the past several years, is at "as reasonable a rate as possible" that keeps MSMC in the "lowest quartile of California's independent colleges." In Fall 2007, students will pay \$24,550 for one academic year. At first I was outraged—when I started as a Freshman at MSMC

the tuition was below \$20,000. Upon further review, however, I came to the conclusion that Presi-

nificantly higher room and board costs. While it is certainly not cheap, Mount St. Mary's is

USC and Loyola Marymount University, had tuitions above \$35,000 per year and significantly higher room and board costs. While it is certainly not cheap, Mount St. Mary's is among the less expensive private institutions in the state.

dent Doud was accurate in her portrayal of the tuition hikes.

I researched private colleges in California and found that a majority of schools, especially the well-known schools such as USC and Loyola Marymount University, had tuitions above \$35,000 per year and sig-

among the less expensive private institutions in the state.

Many students argue that since Mount St. Mary's does not have a well known name or reputation, students should not be forced to pay an exorbitant amount of money.

A junior student who asked to remain anonymous argued, "MSMC is not well known outside of our immediate community. Why should I go deep into debt when I can get an education at a well known California public school for thousands less that will provide me with a recognizable diploma?" Students who attend a school with name recognition with a positive image appear to have a leg up on the competition when thrust into the job market with lesser-known Mount St. Mary's graduates.

from MSMC have to prove they are just as capable as someone attending an Ivy League School." She rightfully argued that employers will want an honest hard worker, not someone who has a great school on their resume but no applicable skills.

Students from Mount St. Mary's College may not have a degree from a famous institution, but their tenacity, strength of character, and courage that they garner during their years at the Mount surpass the easy glory of a graduate from another school.

Mount St. Mary's College undeniably has a story, identity, and community that is absent at many larger public and private schools in the nation. Whether prospective students believe that the Mount atmosphere is worth the \$24,550 price tag remains to be seen.

## The Oracle

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#### Mission Statement

The Oracle's mission is to explore, debate, challenge, and document those stories pertinent to Mount St. Mary's College. Articles and opinions are original works of the individual writers. The Oracle is produced monthly by Mount students. Please send letters to the editor at [oracle@msmc.la.edu](mailto:oracle@msmc.la.edu). The Oracle welcomes articles and contributions by students, faculty, staff and alumni.

## Letter from the Editor



Photo by Michelle Miskanic  
Jenny Park at the Getty Museum

Dear Readers,

Most seniors will agree that college shapes who you are in a profound way. After attending a college in Ypsilanti MI, a community college, and the great and beautiful Mount St. Mary's College, I've summed up my belief system after four years of college:

1. Even if you feel your work makes no difference, pretend that you have the power to move the world. Believing in oneself is believing in prayer. Always believe in yourself. You can do it!

2. Prayer never goes to waste. It gets recycled into another outcome.

3. Depend on one another and ask for help. A friend in need is a friend in deed. In this day and age of myspace and friendster, it's easy to forget that true friendship is based on actions. If you need a friend, be a friend.

4. Stand up for what you believe in, even if you're standing alone.

It's been one fantastic year being the Editor-in-Chief of The Oracle, despite the occasional thorns. Thank you all!

# Clinton and Obama lead in "the most expensive election in American history"

**A** year and nine months prior to the actual Presi-

by PATRICIA TAN

Staff Writer

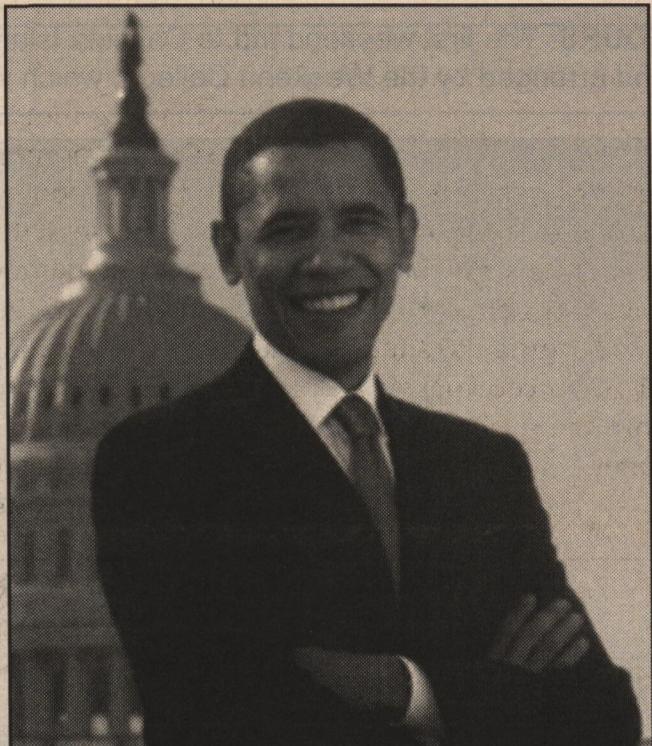
dential elections of 2008, Democratic candidates have made it a point to get their names into the voters' minds as early as possible.

This coming election's nominees have been a source of media controversy and coverage as a woman and a half white and half black man step up to stake their claim to a job that has historically been filled by the middle-aged, white man.

Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife to former President Bill Clinton and a senator of New York, and Barack Obama, an Illinois State Senator, are the forerunners in the race to becoming the Democratic candidate in the 2008 Presidential election, a race that California will give opinion to on February 5, 2008.

Clinton has long been in the media as a former first lady to a controversial president and senator in New York. Her liberal attitudes towards social issues and fiscal issues have made her fans and enemies. Her vote for the war in Iraq and her stance

Some say that being a woman is going to help Clinton in the polling booths, as she will most likely have the female vote. This is especially important since, according to the U.S. Census Bureau, women vote in larger numbers than men and have been doing so since the 1960s.



against it today will definitely play a part in the election when political propaganda become rampant in our radios, televisions and the Internet.

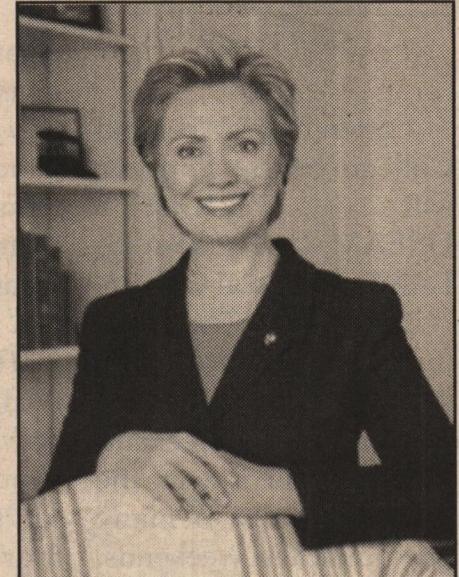
As a student of a predominantly women's college, it is, however, important to emphasize that her gender will definitely be a factor in the election.

Some say that being a woman is going to help Clinton in the polling booths, as she will most likely have the female vote. This is especially important since, according to the U.S. Census

Bureau, women vote in larger numbers than men and have been doing so since the 1960s.

There are also those who find that her gender will be a deterrent to her campaign. There are many traditionalists who don't feel comfortable with a woman becoming the president. The most cited reason for this has been that they don't feel like a woman has the tenacity and the ability to handle the pressures of such an occupation.

Barack Obama doesn't have the



**Oracle Poll: "Would you vote for Hillary Clinton?"**

**57% said Yes**

**20% said No**

**23% said Maybe**

Random Sampling of 30 Mount Students.

media history that his foremost competitor does but has making his headlines since rumors of his intent to run for president was caught wind by the media last fall.

Obama presents himself to be an even more atypical candidate for the presidency. He is a man of color; and though many wish that race won't play a factor in an election

that should be about abilities, his mixed race will be definitely something heavily considered in the voting process.

African-American

stereotypes will proba bly be another difficult obstacle in his journey to the White House, especially with the voters generally conservative and Republican in the Midwest and the South.

The Republican party candidates include: John McCain, Senator from Arizona, Rudy Giuliani, Sam Brownback, and Mitt Romney. Other Democratic party candidates include Bill Richardson, governor from New Mexico, and John Edwards, Senator from North Carolina.

## TRAVELOGUE:

# Catalina Island- More than just a four-hour tour

by MICHELLE MISKANIC

Staff Writer

## MR. WRIGLEY'S DREAM: CATALINA ISLAND IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY.

I attended a Weekend College course entitled: MR. WRIGLEY'S DREAM: CATALINA ISLAND IN CALIFORNIA HISTORY. This was my first experience taking such a course. The trip was part of the Weekend College, and it was the first, hopefully of many one-unit travel weekends. The trip was led by Dr. Fred Simonelli, who has been associated with teaching at the Mount for many years, since 1996. After a few weeks of emailing back and forth to one another we finally met in San Pedro, where we were to take the Catalina Express to Avalon. The class met for the first time in the lobby in San Pedro.

After the channel crossing of just about an hour, we were at the dock in Avalon. It was beautiful and just as I had remembered. Up the hill from the town of Avalon sat our hotel, Catalina Canyon Resort & Spa. The hotel taxi met us at the dock. But once we were acquainted with the location of the hotel, we easily traversed the island by foot.

After dropping off our bags into the hotel lobby's luggage safe, we made our way down the hill for some long overdue food. We arrived so early that most places were still closed from the night before. Luckily, because we kept walking around and around, having a good time exploring, it made the time pass much more quickly, and soon we found a nice Mexican restaurant to eat lunch at.

Shortly after lunch we departed on a four hour tour... that's what I said... a four hour tour... does that sound ominous to you? Well, it was.

Our tour driver was a man named Richard. He was tall, lanky, and bald and he wore glasses. Anytime he felt he needed to have cigarette break, we were given a "photo op". This guy ranted and raved about the "Mammal man" and "Mammal woman", which just means human to you and me.

The weather was beautiful. It was not warm; however, we were lucky enough to see the sun out for the majority of our four hour tour. Richard the tour guide's expertise was flora and fauna, and we saw plenty of that on our tour.

One of my favorite parts of the tour was learning about the history and trivia of the island. One of the most fascinating parts was that the buffalo you see on the island were only introduced to the island in 1924 during the silent picture era when the author Zane Grey was set to film one of his many Westerns on the island.

Well, the story goes that the film project *The Vanishing American* ended, and the cost to bring back the buffalo to the mainland outweighed the cost of bringing them there. Initially they brought 14 head of American bison for the filming. Today, a herd of approximately 150 buffalo roam freely in Catalina Island's interior.

These huge and hairy creatures were among one of the first things that we saw on our tour. They just seemed to be everywhere. They were tame, and looked right at us for a photo op more than once on the tour. It was a rarity to see so many buffalo on one trek to the interior of the island.

One of the best official stops that our tour made was to the Wrigley Ranch, which is also known as El Rancho Escondido. The Wrigley Family owns most of Catalina Island. They were once the owners of the Chicago Cubs. They are also the



Photo by Michelle Miskanic

**TOURS:** The first weekend trip to Catalina Island was led by Dr. Fred Simonelli and arranged by the Weekend College, which will plan on more trips.



Photo by Francie Teitel

**BUFFALO:** Zane Grey brought 14 head of American bison for the filming of 1924 *The Vanishing American*.

Wrigley's behind Wrigley's Gum.

We were greeted by a couple of their cowboys, and we immediately sat down again to watch an exposition of their Wrigley's own Arabian Horses. We were then given complimentary beverages and some snacks. The Ranch has one of a kind saddles made by the best saddle makers in the world.

There is also a video featuring many of the Wrigley women that is only shown at the Ranch. It was their first time making a public appearance. You don't hear about any Paris Wrigley, in their family, all the Wrigley descendants must go to college and get a paying job with their company or else-

where, to be eligible for their inheritance.

We left the Ranch and went to the Top of the World Airport which is one of a kind. You have to have some extra special skills to fly in there. Movie stars periodically fly in when they get a chance. Some include: John Travolta, in his private plane, no less, Barbara Streisand, and Harrison Ford with Calista Flockhart.

After the tour we were finally able to check in our luggage. We took a quick rest, and then it was off to dinner. Flip's was recommended by the tour guide. There I had what was to be the best hamburger I'd ever eaten, other than my dad's. Flip's is also known for its Sushi bar. And it was as

good as we were told. The word on the street was that Flip's was a great place to hang out at night because the live music. There was a live band that played after a man did an acoustic set of his own original music. We left Flip's early and headed up the hill towards our hotel to check out the Catalina Country Club. It was a one in a million experience.

The next day we converged at the hotel's banquet room. We learned facts about the actual history of Catalina Island from Dr. Simonelli, as opposed to the Wrigley spin on it all. The official class ended with a typical in-class essay. Then we were back to the docks of the Catalina Express.

This return trip, I feel like I didn't recover from it for about 48 hours after. I wasn't the only one either. For the first time in my life I got motion sickness. The waves were huge, and they pounded the little boat. The sea spray came up and got us in our faces as well. Even our luggage that was placed in the hold came out soaking wet. The next morning I could not get out of bed to make my way to the shuttle until about the time my class ended. Apologies to Dr. Skidmore!!

# CAMPAIGNING FOR A GREEN(ER) APPLE

by PAULA GAETOS

Photography Editor

I mentioned a while ago that I really wanted a spiffy MacBook Pro, but thanks to my friend, who works as a student nurse, and Greenpeace, I now know that Apple allows their old, poisonous techie waste to be dumped in countries such as China, India and Pakistan and Greenpeace would really like to see some changes. I wasn't quite so sure about buying one after I read what Greenpeace had to say. According to them, Apple as one of the worst among mobile and PC manufactures in eliminating waste and recycling while their PC counterparts ranked higher. For example, in the recent third edition of Greenpeace's "Guide to Greener Electronics" the guide that ranked Apple as the lowest, Levono, a Chinese based PC manufacturer is at the top of the list because of their target to remove the use of PVC chemicals in their products by 2009 and providing global recycling programs for their old systems—both of which Apple, according to Greenpeace, has failed to do so.

So, I feel a little guilty about not realizing that the little things that make life just a little faster moving and easier—computers, mp3 players and mobile phones—have environmental consequences. It's basically electronic waste or e-waste—basically the discarded electronic products that we don't use anymore that get thrown away or recycled. What we consumers don't often realize is our e-waste frequently get exported to places like China, Pakistan and India. Furthermore, once there, those that handle disposing and recycling the e-waste are exposed to very harmful chemicals. Waste centers in

these countries often have extremely poor conditions, therefore, extremely hazardous to environmental and human health. According to ban.org, their methods include, open burning of plastics, river dumping of acids and general dumping, creating toxic landfills. The two biggies are PVC and beryllium. PVC, poly-vinyl-chloride, is essentially plastic and it's mainly used in cabling and computer casings. What makes it harmful is the dioxin that's produced as a byproduct of manufacturing PVC as well as when landfill workers in China, India and Pakistan incinerate e-waste that contains it. Dioxins are carcinogenic in large amounts as well as harm developmental and reproductive systems. Beryllium is a steel-gray metal that is commonly used on motherboards along with copper in order to strengthen the connectors and plugs, while still keeping the electrical currents that make it run. Beryllium is also a carcinogen, one that causes lung cancer. It also causes skin conditions such as poor wound healing and wart-like bumps. This is what organizations like Greenpeace are griping about. They want companies to take responsibility for getting rid of harmful components in their current and future products as well as provide better recycling or take-back programs that properly dispose of their old product that won't be harmful to the environment or to people.

Granted, this dirt on Apple started when Greenpeace printed its first edition of "Guide to Greener Electronics" in August of 2006, ranking Apple as one of the lowest.

Greenpeace states in their first edition that while Apple commits to eliminating PVC, they have not set up a timeline for "a complete phase

out". Also, while there may be PVC-free peripherals (like batteries, keyboards, mice, etc), there are no actual PVC free systems. Furthermore, while Apple has take-back initiatives (such as discounts toward newer products) and national take-back collective programs, there is no voluntary take-back in every country Apple sells its products or a take-back program for every type of product. Apple is now ranked the lowest in the two subsequent editions of the "Guide to Greener Electronics" because of lack of progress and continuing low scores.

In an effort to raise awareness make Apple greener, Greenpeace launched a full-scale online campaign in September 2006, called "Green my Apple." It's a grassroots campaign that highly encourages homemade advertisements, videos and posters in order to bring awareness of Apple misguided practices, which you can view on their ProCreate page. YouTube viral videos have popped up such as a spoof of Apple's "I'm a Mac and I'm a PC" commercial campaign, stating the various toxic components in the electronics as well as footage, provided by the "Green my Apple" campaign that show the e-waste landfills in Asian countries. Users have also sent photos of themselves hugging their Macs with the "Green my Apple" logo stating that while they "love their Macs", they wish it "came in green"—meaning, they wish it were more responsible in their e-waste management.

So far, the viral videos and photos are namely causing more debate whether Apple is that environmentally irresponsible. A YouTube comment toward the landfill footage posted in March 2007 asked, "Why waste their energy and resources on a company with 2% market share? Apple has a pretty good

takeback policy. But why target apple?" Similar questions popped up on the Flickr photos of "Green my Apple". One commenter asked, "Why single Apple out? Why not Dell, HP, Lenovo, etc? ALL computer companies use minute quantities of those "dangerous substances" to reduce heat in the insides of the

## Greenpeace's Criteria in Chemicals policy and practice:

1. A chemicals policy based on the Precautionary Principle
2. Chemicals Management: supply chain management of chemicals via e.g. banned/restricted substance lists, policy to identify problematic substances for future elimination/substitution
3. Timeline for phasing out all use of vinyl plastic (PVC)
4. Timeline for phasing out all use of brominated flame retardants (not just those banned by EU's RoHS Directive)
5. PVC- and BFR-free models of electronic products on the market.

computer."

Apple did have something to say though. An Apple spokesperson stated, after the recent publication of the "Guide to Greener Electronics" in earlier April 2007, that Apple indeed has environmental track record and made great efforts to eliminate or reduce toxic components, such as lead, from their products. Apple has also worked to create energy efficient products, such as creating products that take up less power and by improving their power management software. According to their site, "iPod power adapters now exceed Energy Star efficiency requirements and already meet California's stricter appliance efficiency regulations, which are sched-

uled to take effect July 1, 2008." Also, the Environmental Protection Agency ranks Apple desktop and notebooks the best in class according to their assessment tool, the Electronic Product Environmental Assessment Tool (EPEAT). I'm a little inclined think Greenpeace just makes Apple look worse than any other cor-

## Platforms: A View From the Top

Flipping through the pages of VOGUE I noticed that many of the

by SONIA RIVERA

Fashion Editor

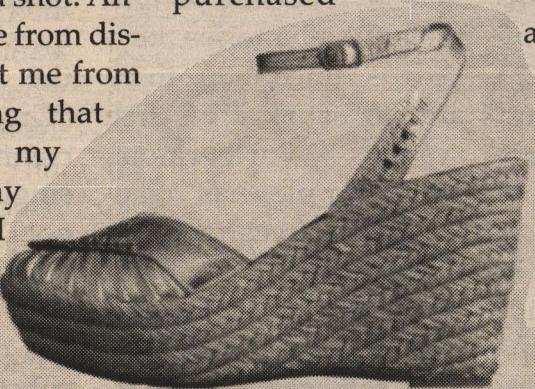
advertisements as well as spreads feature models wearing platforms. I've never been one for heels, I prefer my trusty chucks and for dressier occasions I wear flats. In fact the last time I had worn heels was my senior prom back in 2004, and even then I didn't wear them long for they were painful, I abandoned them an hour into the dance the chose instead to dance barefoot. Platforms however offer a great alternative, for several reasons, one being that they're more comfortable than heels since they offer better balance and second they can be worn with jeans, skirt, and crop pants. Over spring break I saw a play in which every actress was wearing platforms, surely they must know something about them that I

didn't. Looking down at my chucks, I decided that it was time I gave them a shot. Another reason, aside from discomfort, that kept me from wearing anything that would elevate my height is that my boyfriend and I are so close in height that wearing heels of any kind would cause me to tower over him, some-

Looking down at my chucks, I decided that it was time I gave the platforms a shot.

thing that I thought would him uncomfortable, but once I told him that I

wanted to give them a try, he gave me his blessing. I purchased



pair of platform espadrilles that would compliment a black empire waist dress I had bought. Once date night rolled around I donned my new dress and platforms, it was strange at first, having to look down at my boyfriend, but he liked them, and they ended up being comfortable enough where walking wasn't painful. So I encourage you all to get yourself a pair of platforms, they come in a range of height options and are stylish and can compliment a variety of outfits.

## Retractions For the Record:

In the January issue of The Oracle

--The headline "Faculty Q. & A.: Dr. Eric Stemp" was a typographical error. The correct spelling is Dr. Eric Stemp. The misspelling was not repeated in the copy, written by Adriana Frausto.

In the February issue of The Oracle

--Staff writer Kathleen Araiza wrote "Travel: Going to New York." The by-line incorrectly stated a different writer's name. Araiza's name, however, was included in the caption.

--"The Problem with Idealizing the Fifties" included a typographical error of the writer of *The Feminine Mystique*. The correct spelling of the author is Betty Friedan.

--The article on "Salaam Coleman Smith" was written by Jenny Park. The by-line was missing.

## Opinion: Crafting words beats peering into mouths

by STEPHANIE SANDOVAL

Staff Writer

A few weeks ago, I went to the dentist, and all of you must be thinking, and so what. Well, I thought it was going to be a casual and meaningless day as well, but it was not. Of all places, this was the place in which my choice of major would be mocked at. I don't know if this has happened to you too, but as an English major, it has happened to me, too many times.

I was calmly sitting, waiting for the dentist to examine my teeth, when this doctor asked: "So, what are you doing, do you work, go to school?" (Well, first he asked how I was doing.) I answered, "I go to school." He responded, "So, what do you study?" "I'm an English major." I said. And he put on a face of complete

confusion, as if I had said that I was studying to become a terrorist. I proceeded to explain what an English major was about, because he seemed at a loss. He instantly said, "Oh, yeah, you study dead poets and stuff...I didn't know people actually studied that, I mean it was fine for high school, but for college?" This was enough to enrage me. I was even tempted to say: "And you studied to put your fingers into people's mouth, how demented are you?" But I retained myself, because that would have made me into the type of person I abhor.

I don't understand why people have such a problem with English majors; we know how to write, how to analyze, and how to really think. If the English subject would have not existed, we would have never

If poets and lyricists did not exist, how would romance, fear, anger be expressed in an artistic way? The skeptics would say that there are actors and singers who express various emotions every day, but without any words, how can they express themselves?

learned how to write well, and how to read well. We would have never learned about Shakespeare's numerous plays and poems, of Charles Dickinson's novels, and of Edgar Allan Poe's eerie stories.

On top of that, if no one would have taken the

time to read and write, where would the movie industry be? Yes, if you all did not know, scripts exist before a film is placed on a screen. There are people who take the time to write and rewrite those scripts.

There are screenwriters and novelists who de-

serve acknowledgement, and not only because their work is considered one of the top three best works written, but because they have imagination and have the capacity to put it on paper. If poets and lyricists did not exist, how would romance, fear, anger be expressed in an artistic way? The skeptics would say that there are actors and singers who express various emotions every day, but without any words, how can they express themselves? Without an exceptional writing ability, how can one say what one wants to say in a way that readers can relate?

The knowledge of writing is a critical necessity, because those who grasp the core of it provide us with imagination and emotions in a way that few can accomplish.

## Jose Drudis Biada Art Gallery

by YAHITI MACALI

Managing Editor

Ever looking for something to do one the weekends, or looking for that perfect intellectual, but fun (and free) adventure, but don't know where to go or have a way there. While you are off searching the sky, the epitome of perfection is right here on the Chalon Campus.

The Jose Drudis Art Gallery host several art shows throughout the year. Most shows involve artist from the surrounding communities, and other art schools. According to the website, "The Gallery program reflects the current cultural issues faced by artists, collectors, museum curators, students of the college, and the general public."

You may have received a postcard in your mailbox if you are a resident or an email and

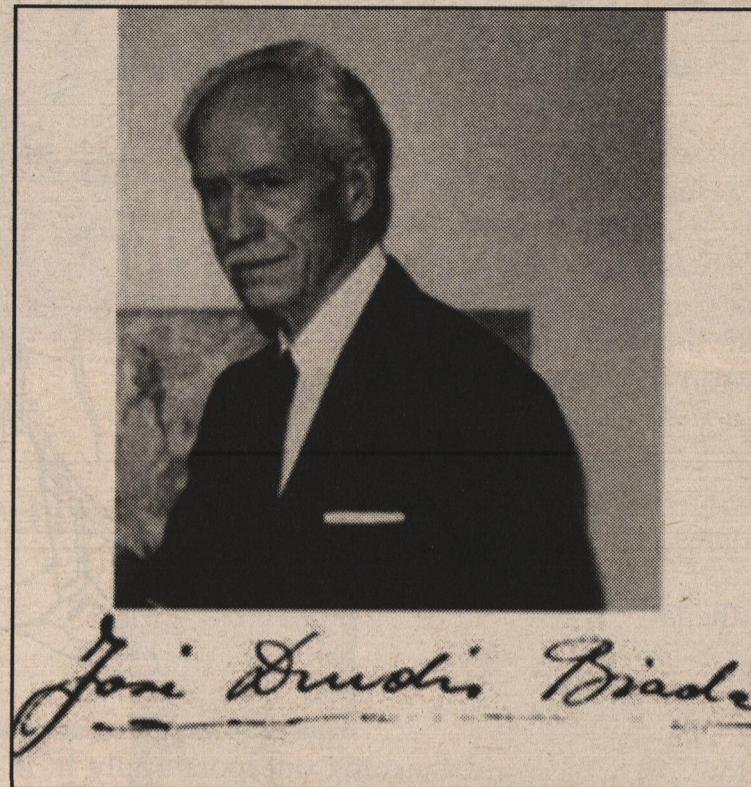


Photo Courtesy of Mount St. Mary's College website

**ARTIST ANDO PHILANTHROPIST:** Jose Drudis Biada's fine art is displayed in the library. Biada attended the Graduate University of Barcelona, School of Fine Arts, Spain.

overlooked it but trust me, art exhibits can be an absolute ball. At the show receptions, not only are there free gourmet cheese, crackers, cookies, and wine (for you 21+), but there is pleasant and often times profound conversation.

Then of course there is beautiful art to experi-

ence. Currently Gallery C is being used to showcase the art of Alums and Students of the College, Marjorie Zeka and Holly Driscoll are currently showing.

Find more information browse online at <http://www.msmc.la.edu/pages/2108.asp>.

## Cont. From Pg. 1... Clothesline

Having T-Shirts hang on the clothesline was a very easy decision to make when this program was created because women washing and hanging clothing was very common and natural. Women when hanging their washed clothing often had "girl talks" with the neighbor and often exchanged information. Therefore, based on this idea was where the Clothesline Project came from.

Recently Mount St. Mary's had the opportunity to bring to campus a very special event called The Clothesline Project. Students wrote messages on T-Shirts expressing their thoughts on stopping violence against women. The Clothesline Project is an organization that seeks to empower women to stand up for themselves and to avoid keeping silent. Many women participated in this three day event held at the circle decorating T-Shirts and learning information about how to avoid violence and so on. This year, the Clothesline Project was sponsored by

the Student Affairs Women's Coalition and was joined by other organizations and departments on campus such as the Chalon and Doheny ASB, Campus ministry, Counseling and Psychological Services, Residence Life and so many more.

I walked by and stayed at the event for some time, and found it very inspiring to see many women stand up for themselves and break the silence of their past. As a woman, I am very proud to see many of these women stand up for themselves and to say "STOP". During the time I was there, I was able to see messages such as, "I trusted you", "I have persevered" and so on. It was truly inspiring because as I read these messages, I realized how tough it must have been to go through such an experience and I stood in awe of their level of courage to give a point across. It was truly an emotional moment for those who participated in the Mount St. Mary's Clothesline Project.

## Myth and Reality: the porn star is idolized; the prostitute degraded

by ELIZABETH L. GUTIERREZ

Staff Writer

The term "porn star" is a joke to me. The fact that prostitution is illegal while pornography remains a thriving industry, is something that will forever lie beyond my comprehension. From brothels and whorehouses, to human trafficking and the ridiculing of Mary Magdalene and Aileen Wuornos. Prostitution has always been something to be condemned. It has never been something that women strived to do. The prostitute on a dark street corner is shunned. There

is a hatred for this woman; there is disgust in the eye of her beholder. She is considered unhygienic, unintelligent, an outcast, a whirlpool of STD's, a person not to be associated with. If caught attempting to sell herself, she is arrested and charged with a crime.

Then you have the porn star-the glamazon, the fantasy. She is idolized by men, desired, adored, even appreciated. Her photos are plastered on the profiles of thousands of myspace users. Her "art" is infested in the computers of millions. It is absolutely dumbfounding that these women are

called stars.

From the argument that porn stars keep girls from being raped, to the belief that pornography is an art form, the term porn star means nothing more to me than someone who willingly places herself under the cruel control of men who profit off of her sexuality, someone who uses her body rather than her brain to sustain herself, a woman who relies on the perverseness of her fans to stay alive.

She is grotesquely objectified. She prostitutes herself over and over again. Her life will end, and she will continue to be sold.

What is the difference

between the prostitute and the porn star? Why is the prostitute shunned and not likewise admired?

I suppose it is because she cannot afford to lie in a tanning bed, or buy herself bigger breasts, or because she doesn't wear expensive makeup and clothes or get her hair done at a fancy beauty salon. I presume that the porn star is idolized because protection is used, thus preventing sexually transmitted diseases, or because she looks clean and alluring. She looks clean and alluring-and that is the only difference. It is the only thing that separates the impoverished prostitute from

the recognizable porn star. It is a shame that so many people glamorize the very thing they hate. I would advise the person that curses street-walkers, but salivates over porn stars to read Thoreau, and I would advise them to remember to never lend themselves to the wrong which they condemn. I sympathize with the girl who idolizes these so called stars. It is shame she hasn't enough sense to realize she ought to be placing higher importance on something like her own education so that she may never have to succumb to prostitution- instead of helping to glamorize it.

# Ask ATHENA:

Dear Athena,

Dear Athena,

Where is the best place to meet SMART, cute guys?

I would suggest meeting them in a Library. Go on over to UCLA, or USC and study in the library. You'd be amazed by how many cute guys spend their time studying alone... and while they are sitting there alone, ask if you can join them at their table. If the library isn't your thing, then a low key coffee shop with tables and internet connection is your next best bet.

Happy Hunting!

Athena

I feel very pressured by this "Go out and conquer the world" sense after I graduate. Do you think I need to see an academic counselor for help?

It is quite common to have feelings of pressure after college. It is after all the time that you either go to graduate school, or begin your career. It can be quite an overwhelming experience. For the most part this feeling will pass, as you are out in the world making a name for yourself, but if it doesn't subside and you constantly feel anxious, you should seek some help. As for meeting with an academic counselor? Why not, it can't hurt! Meet with them before the semester ends and

talk about what plans you have for yourself and see what options are out there for you. Remember part of living a successful life and conquering the world is to know when to use your resources!

Relax and take life as it comes,

Athena

Dear Athena,

How do I pass my Bio exams without feeling like a nerd with no life?

Well that is a toughie! First of all you need to know the material, and to do that does require serious studying. But once you are familiar with knowledge, apply it to life. If your learning about plants, when you walk-



ing outdoors apply it. If you see a flower with 3 petals then you know it's a monocot. Then ask yourself questions. What's a monocot? How does it differ from a dicot? And so on and so forth... then when you see a tree, discuss the type of tree it is and all the parts right down to the cells and apply the knowl-

edge. Another way of preparing for a Biology exam, or any other exam is to try to teach a concept. It helps you understand the concept/subject more if you are able to clearly explain it to someone else.

Apply, teach, learn!

Athena

## Cont. From Pg. 1... Producer for *The Closer*: Andrew Sacks

design, props and set dressing (furniture). "It's a collaborative effort of 150 people to create the show each week." While most television viewers only get to see the tenacitors on the screen, students at the Mount can get a sneak peek behind scenes.

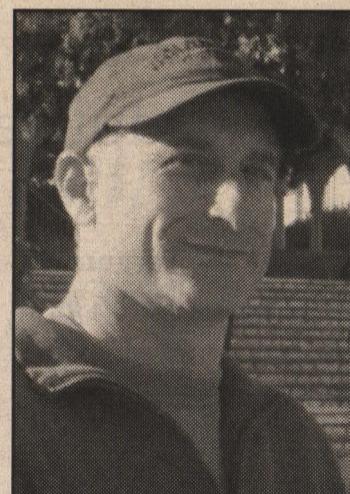
Sacks started off as an engineering major at UCLA, but around his junior year taking classes, he knew he could not picture himself in that field. After graduation, he wrote resumes, did "cold-calling" to the major studios, and finally landed a job as a production assistant for *Beverly Hills 90210*, the lowest level position. From running errands such as picking up lunch and coffee, and delivering scripts. Sacks gradually learned from his superiors and made his way up, tackling the tougher jobs. "I always wanted to do this, but

didn't have any connections."

Sacks described a general job succession. "I was lucky people were willing to teach me what they were doing. They moved up and I moved up." Eventually, Sacks produced *Two Soldiers*, which won Best Live Action Short in 2004. *Two Soldiers* was based on a short story by William Faulkner.

As the line producer, he also monitors the costs of each episode to fall within budget "lines." Some episodes, such as the one shot on the Chalon campus, puts the show over budget and others episodes on a set, usually are less costly. "At the end of the season, it all evens out." Sacks said.

The entertainment industry seemed like the collaborative and collective enterprise, with many people taking part. Andrew Belanoff, the



script writer for *The Closer*, also talked about his job, stating he often worked with seven other people, coming up with stories, outlines, and major plot points.

Getting the script and then "being able to find out how to get everything together" is what Sacks finds most fulfilling as a producer. "I like the collaborative effort of people bringing in their specialty to pull off an episode of quality television."

"I love the crew and cast. It's nice to do something you enjoy and

we're getting the ratings and recognition for it," said Sacks. Sacks also mentioned the particular diversity of the cast that has led to the popularity of the show. Michael Paul Chang is Chinese-American and Raymond Cruz is Mexican-American. While ratings are not the sole reason for a show's success, Sacks said, "Ratings are important because that is how networks set the price of ad time for a show and a network needs to know they will be getting enough income to support the series."

"It's nice to have the success of a third season." Shows often do not reach an entire season, such as only reaching six episodes. The demands of television are different from movies, as the TV show must have a plot and resolution within 45 minutes. It takes about seven days to film an episode and at the same

time you are prepping the next and finishing three in post production, Sacks explained.

Monday through Friday, production can start as early as 7 a.m. to 8 p.m. When shoots are based at night, the cast and crew may even work from 6pm to 6am. "It's a hard job, but I like doing it. Everyday is different, exciting. I'm not in an office and I don't have to wear a coat and tie" Sacks said.

To the graduating seniors, Sacks suggests "Good luck and work hard at pursuing whatever you feel passionate about."

The *Closer* episode that was filmed at The Mount, with two bodies flailing out of the coffin scene and police agents rushing down the steps, can be seen sometime in the summer on TNT.